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LONG LIVE THE KING

THE ONLY commemorative Michael Jackson song (though not the *Maclean* one) "Michael Jackson, his life and art: 1958-2009" Kudos on an extraordinary. And thanks to joining "We remember his art" "The last laugh," perhaps the most important observation of all: Jackson didn't let anybody for taking down his life on over the last few years. In my job as a morning radio show host, I was responsible for microphone news. I want to be well every time. But when I became aware of Jackson's death, I felt a sense of change, not the least of which was grief. I grew up with the Jackson 5, I own many Jackson 5 and Michael Jackson CDs. I got love and joy and fear of his time. Jackson was a hero. I hope that "Remember the King" song will be a great and wonderful Michael Jackson song in a year, not in a legend, but as a real person with all problems and real talent — will remain with everyone. Susan Gumpel, Redford, British Columbia

MUCH OF the information about Michael Jackson's medication scandals in your commemorative edition article "The King of Pop" was damagingly incomplete. It seemed to suggest that Jackson was found not guilty of second molestation because of his wealth or the lack of chance of a powerful witness — not that he was actually innocent. No one deserves to be unfairly portrayed in this way, least of all in a magazine committed to come across them. Anne Cheng, Vancouver

IF THE WORLD could survive the poisonous doses of real-world issues such as Schmitt, Chomsky, Michael Jordan and, of course, the incomparable Michael, I think we'd live. One loss of these calls of King of Pop. But anyone really thinks there will be any level 150th anniversary celebration of Jackson remains here as there was recently for Mozart? Mier Heng, London, Ont.

PAUL WELLS's article about the Michael Jackson memorial "The World," *Celebrity*, July 20 (2009) touched on the many surrounding tragic elements of the life led in the uniquely talented, yet flawed and highly sensitive our. He noted during the early months of his life that followed his death that he appeared to have been a loving and devoted father to his

three children. While he may have had an inner legal, financial, and publicity problems, it does seem he accomplished his desire to be a father and to leave his children an extraordinary music catalogue that was his life's work. Though I do believe that the world's stinging article of what Jackson's later years may have been his second suicide, as I personally take some comfort that his love helped him go, love, acceptance, and purpose. Robin Mahoney, Winnipeg

REGARDING YOUR Michael Jackson commemorative issue and the subsequent page cover



story, can you remind me again how Jackson's work has benefited Canadians? You're a very good man (PA filed 7/24/09). Newsweek, July 20 (2009) about the passing of the late Prince. He was a shining example of true patriotism and Canadian pride. His contributions to his country were beyond count. He recognized and brought attention to the importance of volunteering, with the creation of the Governor General's Caring Canadians Award. He recognized the contribution of our Aboriginal people by producing the National Aboriginal Day. Prince's life should be granted at least as much space in this Canadian publication as Jackson. Remade Lefkowitz (no relation), Moncton, N.B.

CIVIL UNREST

CONGRATULATIONS on the article on public sector pay ("Downgrading terms," *Newsweek*, July 20). It needed to be said. The more slowly

workers of Canada have made it to the big time and now find out the rest, depending on how they feel. They don't get what they demand by civil strike, they then bring out the guns to shoot, push, threaten and intimidate while the police stand by. I find it fair that those who create the tax base for poor lives than those who earn their living from the collection of those taxes. It is no longer fair to let private industry to pay more taxes to fund the benefits and salaries of public servants. Ronan Miller, Paris, Ont.

ONE OF THE stories cited in the article referred to the disconnect between public and private pension plans as "appalling" and "anomalous." Given government involvement in its planning and funding the largest in public pension plans and cutting deals with some privately funded companies while ignoring others, I would also add the term "discriminatory." As a minimum, the federal government should stop up following the recent passing of a motion in favour of emergency amendments to the Bankruptcy law. Any Act with actual legislation to provide enhanced status for consumers should be other secured creditors to ensure or potentially reduce reductions in pension payments. This would not provide parity with respect to public sector pension plans, but it would be a modest first step. Ian DeLoraine, Vancouver, Ont.

I AM ONE of those lucky public sector people enjoying a "distinct advantage" over my private sector counterparts, and living off an "amazingly better pension." Let's put this in perspective. Over the course of my working years, my salary was consistently lagging behind private sector salaries. We had to contribute to our benefits and pension plans. Now we will also contribute to private sector pensions and deducts, and through our taxes will pay those employees whose companies cheated them out of their pension with the graceful help of our government. As for the recent study findings indicating that public sector employees make more than private sector employees — of course private sector owners are using this incentive to apply Nanny State's shock doctrine, to lower salaries while trying to increase their profit margins, eliminate benefits, and strip the rights of their workers. Do I feel

bad for the private sector that cheated all Canadians, offered generous salaries to their executives, and who have robbed pension plans? No. Too bad, no and Andre Fleischer, Oxford, Que.

IT SEEMS THAT whenever the economy is suffering, the public sector should be highlighted as one of the main culprits. What I did not see in the rather predictable article was any enlightening figures showing cost per service job with their wages and benefits rate by rate. For example an Ontario nurse paid with an ambulance paramedic, or a police and police worker with 30 years experience as opposed to a casual park ranger with equal security. Putting a value on work performed is also a bit different in many public sector jobs, not cost and to the probability of the company, but to the demand and expectations of the citizen. Our article was a blatant attack on unions, which appears to be going around lately. Ed White, Richmond, B.C.

STINK IN HOGSTOWN

GRAB, WE GET IT. Everyone hates Toronto. Your article on the garbage strike ("Toronto stinks," *Newsweek*, July 20) was fair and informative, but the cover page is misleading. Most of the news about our city coming out of *Maclean's* has been unfairly negative. Can't we end the divide of Toronto versus the rest of Canada? Glen Skelton, Toronto

YOUR ARTICLE presented an analysis of the costs of Toronto's waste management system that I believe is incorrect and misleading. Toronto is one of the most efficient and cost-effective providers of municipal waste management services in Canada. Data from the Ontario Municipal Beach marketing Initiative for 2007 indicates that Toronto's cost for garbage collection is only \$5.61 per tonne, thanks to city homeowners taking a leading role in reducing 99 per cent of their waste from landfill. It is so fortunate that in its efforts to provide Canadians with a competitive, community by community analysis of what efficient delivery of public services really costs, *Maclean's* used data so general that some of the misleading conclusions are at odds with reality. To state that the city's waste collection system is driving Toronto's cost higher as compared to other cities is simply wrong. In fact, only \$1 million was invested in the system during the period upon which *Maclean's* based its survey.

An error was also made in compiling data that combined the city's operating and capital costs. This included the \$217 million capital cost of the Green Lane landfill site in

2007 being averaged over just three years — not the 20-plus years the facility will be in operation.

Maclean's also missed the mark on some basic facts related to the municipal workers strike. For one, the sick bank program for city management and non-essential ended in March 2008 and was switched to the same type of short-circuiting plan that has been offered through collective bargaining to CUPE Local 416 and 79. This strike was unnecessary. The City of Toronto prepared to meet a settlement, but in the face of a global economic agreement, no agreement could be reached for our employees and affordable for the city.

Joe Premaratne, City Manager, Toronto

NICE IF YOU CAN AFFORD IT

IT WOULD BE nice to open a copy of my beloved *Maclean's* and not find yet another article by Mark Steyn intended to make Canadians feel worse about "white trash" rather than pride in our country ("Why do you have the one you live?" *Steyn*, July 20). I will never

find out "Nanny crying people" for seeking some and feeling some of the border. That is, after all, where the money is. When Steyn feels to see in that there some people that have made a big in the U.S. can now afford decent health care and is not don't have to suffer the wait times in poor countries. Canada, such here in purgatory, cannot consistently endure. Although I may not be as educated or as wealthy as Mark Steyn, I am sure of one thing: many poor, uneducated American families would gladly suffer wait times and bureaucracy in the face of bankruptcy and astronomical hospital bills. Norm MacGill, Georgetown, Ont.

MARK STEYN is now writing the *Journal of Newsweek*. Here is a writer who questions the credibility of the New York Times but relies on the contents of one of the leading purveyors of tabloid propaganda in Canada. When writing Steyn's frequent attacks on Canada's social and political landscape, it is clear that his scope is in the United States from 2000 to 2008 under the Bush-Cheney regime. Donag

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that us, Americans were meticulously balanced around high-speed rail, gun control, balanced budgets and bilingual legislation. Steyer was enormous at one time, now he is merely a nostalgic echo of the death rattle of the hypocritical American conservative movement.

Dan Hindmeyer, Vancouver

WINDING BACK a medical moment is still better than getting no treatment, or being back ruptured because of treatment. Steyer talks about human dignity, but there is no dignity about being sick or dying with no access to care. I fear that he is, dare I say it, an idiot.

July Meier, St. John's, St. John's

ALONE AND AUTISTIC

AS A MOTHER of a 10-year-old daughter with a non-verbal learning disorder (NLD), I was dismayed to learn that Asperger's is the new "it" disorder among actors and in fiction ("Autistic heroine," *Media*, July 26). While I welcome the opportunity these media will have to educate people who don't know about this disease, those who do will tell you that having a child with this kind of social awkwardness and snapping posture is a horror movie. My daughter is rarely outside for play dates or sleepovers and spends many lunch hours picking up garbage alone in the schoolyard. (That's the real face of autistic spectrum disorders.)

Jacqueline Sigmund, Surrey, B.C.

ON THE FAST TRACK

MACLEAN'S HIT the nail on the head with Andrew Coyne's column about high-speed rail ("Unnecessary at any speed," *Opinion*, July 26). If we want people out of their cars we need to make driving way more expensive. However, I disagree with his suggestion of toll roads, as a more random and not all-encompassive. A better way is to significantly raise the tax on gas. This way you get everyone and you get the gas providers' backsides. Use some of that money to subsidize fuel for public transit. How Coyne's clear thinking about important issues. Keep it coming.

Graham Herbert, North York, Ont.

ANOTHER COLUMNER ignores the obvious higher monetary choice for high-speed rail: Toronto-Montreal, not Quebec-Windsor or Calgary-Edmonton. The pollution caused by 50 minutes' flight from Toronto to Montreal is becoming unconscionable, as is the waste of precious oil. Clanking at 100 mph, even at high-speed rail will cause urban sprawl. How? We have had half-hour ground for decades due to much more pervasive clogging. Then he says the tracks are snail-gly. Unlikely tracks would this country rage the St. Lawrence here is a snail-gly highway, a highway, power plants, industrial parks, office towers,

strip malls. High-speed rail should be the transportation means of choice between Toronto and Montreal.

Michael Mawer, Chatham, Que.

I AM PERPLEXED by Andrew Coyne's column warning decrying a high-speed rail connection between Calgary and Edmonton. I don't know if he read the entire Transportation Committee Management Speech report presented to the Alberta government—but our country has, and we fully understand the creation of an economic spin in Alberta connecting Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton. We have studied that matter for 10 years and we know it can be done at profit. It was also



WHILE HIGH-SPEED RAIL would need some subsidy, so do our highways and airports.

worry to hear Coyne suggest that once made are unaffordable. Gosh—how you thought how pretty those crowded mainline highways and? Perhaps we might pay tolls on roads to use toll roads. The high-speed rail will be a gift of money to toll roads. What is a toll road anyway?

Norman H. Hansen, Chatham, Alberta High-Speed Rail, Calgary

THE COLUMN by Andrew Coyne last made me realize some of my cherished assumptions about high-speed rail travel. As he points out, the Calgary-Edmonton link does not make sense: at 140 km per hour a relatively thinly populated area, it will never generate the passenger need of to break even. People will use that car, especially since they will need them to go around Calgary and Edmonton, with its limited public transport. Putting a car at either end will negate the advantage both environmentally and economically. However, the Toronto-Montreal (not Windsor-Quebec) corridor does make sense. While it would need some subsidy, so do our highways and airports. Anticipate your own private train will attract both business travellers who

currently fly, and the general public who now drive or take the bus. The degree of diversion from air, car and bus will depend on the cost of the tickets compared to other modes of transport. That, of course, will depend upon the subsidies available. That's the Catch-22. Sign up at Rail.ca. Message: Over

FRUGAL READERS

WHILE READING "Champlain's wishes" (*National*, July 6), about how Paul Chien's page reduced over \$166 million of money from the Department of National Defence into his own pocket, I was struck by this sentence: "Budgets that aren't spent get cut and nobody wants their budget cut." I have been



Good news

Persian progress

The winds of change are blowing again in Iran, despite the ever-present risk of a further crackdown. An Iranian newspaper, *Al-Ahram*, has been shut down, and a former president, who gave new life to this week's street protests by changing their cause of democratic reform, has been arrested. Iranian leaders, including the president, are now in Tehran, where they have been accused of obstructing the demonstrations. Not even the dismissal of a leader of the reform movement, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, could paper over the cracks forming within the country's religious leadership, and if there were ever a case for Washington to openly back the demonstrators, it is now.

Give the man some space
Neil Armstrong took more heat this week for leaving the club

FACE OF THE WEEK



CIVILIAN LEADER ARMBRISTON was in second place overall as he closed the French line of stage 15 of the Tour de France last week.

erty that comes with being the first person to set foot on the moon. This, even on the 35th anniversary of the lunar landing, the astronaut's residence makes refreshing sense. Armstrong is undeniably an accomplished man, but in the larger scheme of the Apollo project he was a monopoly piece—the right man for the job at the right time. Having never summed up the grandeur of the moment with his "one small step" line, he seems unable to summon more words, or better words, or describe it. If that's the case, he shouldn't try.

A death of villains

One day after American cities opened a plunge in violence rates, Canada released an extraordinary shooting and/or drug ban that said and severity of crime in this country in 2005. It was the fifth

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF JERRY SPRINGER

Having taken a sabbatical from his role on tabloid TV, the 65-year-old talk-show host went on a run in London as Billy Flynn in the musical *Chicago*. On Friday, the *New York Times* reported he is in talks to play the role on Broadway. Following in the footsteps of established singer like Huey Lewis and The New Mastersounds, he has signed the paper deal, while Springer confirmed that he hopes to play the role for a few weeks, then take the show on tour.

Bad news

Pen and sword

A new U.S. report says Afghan prisons have become breeding grounds for extremists, highlighting an Achilles heel in the NATO mission that demands quick results. The Pentagon insists that for combat to proceed in both U.S. and Afghan war jails, where prisoners are being held, more information has been shared with the government. The report says a direct threat to Canadian troops. Our war soldiers were forced to transport prisoners

as a result. Not all this money will be spent solely on a weekly \$10,000 cost on the road. Meanwhile, the Japanese will not doubt develop similar and possibly better versions of the gas-detecting, steam-powered, or even the most advanced, as people who think they'll build those cars in Ontario.

Big Brother.com

Hard to know which is more alarming: Amazon.com's selling now to face the privacy of people using its Kindle electronic readers, or its implementation to any one of its customers to any one of its customers. The world's biggest online book seller's latest Kindle action with a major publisher changed its mind about allowing an electronic edition of two of its books to go on. Amazon.com had already been told, so Amazon simply went to its customers' Kindle accounts, electronically deleted the books and created the customers' refunds. The firm in question: *1984* and *Animal Farm*, by George Orwell.

But they're so cute

Spent a thought the week for movie fans: the people who buy them. Or, in other words, a law in electronic ownership of large exotic animals after assumed wildness began pouring into animal rescuers. Many of those who get into crisis find that—surprise—they couldn't handle them as they grew older. In Florida, gay activists opened a bill on hand for known problem that have been found in the Everglades, a legacy of overhunting and overhunting that lives in the wild. The bill forces it to suggest a national of the American freedom in post-war not run as a program. But perhaps an oversight came in to order. Like one on the way to unneeded order consequences. ■

Auto asphyxia

Ontario never has been it would offend Honda and Toyota who is planned \$100,000 rebate for electric cars, tailored as it is to get left to GM's Chevy Volt. Proposals say the deal means investment in electric-car technology, and then rationalizing



JOHN HANLEY will soon lead the CCGE—the voice of big business in Canada. Can he jump-start our lagging global competitiveness?

Innovation isn't in Canada's DNA



PAUL WELLE

last posts, at PM, will have a busy autumn.

Manley has had five years of ups and downs as corporate lawyer and member of several high-profile boards: Ontario Pacific, CIBC, Nortel. With the Nortel ship sailed to sea, anyway, he deluged toward that Afghanistan pitfall for Stephen Harper, a decision that earned Manley a lot of detractors in the Liberal party. But then, he never was much good at putting aside ideological purity.

Which makes his next destination an interesting pick. In October he'll move into the offices of the Canadian Council/Chief Executive, and (as New Year's Day he'll become the group's president and chief executive officer). The CCGE—yes, you may remember it under world names, the Business Council on National Issues—is a club for 100 chief executives of Canada's largest corporations. Its members claim \$3.5 trillion in assets and \$300 billion in annual revenues. This is the voice of big business in Canada. So it's an open question

whether it can also be the voice—fairly and unapologetically as his has sometimes been—of John Manley. He intends to find out.

But I didn't call Manley just to quiz him about his new job. As you'll see elsewhere in this issue of *Maclean's*, a few of us recently interviewed the president of Canada's largest business organizations. One of them, the University of Toronto's David Naylor, called for a business leaders' conference on the missing innovation. University funding and the role of higher education would be part of it, but in Naylor's view the road to top innovation and breakthroughs in science is not to be restricted to what goes on at universities. Naylor's colleague, Heather Maitreie (Dean of McGill University, again), "Having industry leadership close with government and universities is absolutely critical," she said.

Well, then, Would Manley, in his new role, want to join government and academia in trying to build a stronger, more competitive economy? You're right. I knew the answer before I asked the question. "Absolutely! It would be the greatest privilege of my life to be instrumental in bringing forth and contributing to it," he said.

He was careful to emphasize that his opinion was his alone. He won't be speaking for the CCGE until he has charge of the CCGE. But Manley has a lot of history on these

issues. As industry minister in the Yvon Leclerc's cabinet, he was a champion against the rest of the world every day. His hair's changed his mind.

"Innovation is perishable. The world is changing so quickly that the mobility to find ways to adapt to the changing environment is detrimental, not only to the business sector, but to the country's prosperity as a whole." And for the moment, at least, he's not shy about attributing some of the responsibility for our lagging competitiveness to business.

"I don't think you could say that innovation is deeply in the DNA of our Canadian business enterprises," he said. "We have built a prosperity, up to and including this decade, on a fairly basic guideline: we are rich in our natural resources. We're good at harvesting them. And we have built a manufacturing and processing sector, and to some degree a services sector, which has been quite successful in exploiting access to the U.S. market."

So Canadian business often doesn't do much more than build factories in the north of the U.S. border and job products 50 km south. Five years, that model got a lot of help from a Canadian dollar. "I got into a car accident once (while I was) developing a new manner for saying you shouldn't eat shell mussels for business. The fact that the Canadian dollar was trading at a discount, you shouldn't take that for granted."

And you, that the issue is making a lot higher? It's time to ask hard questions about why homegrown businesses don't often rise up, not just at short-term costs, but as a truly competitive global market. Research in

Manley is an example of a Canadian expert who shows an high industry expertise. "Most of the others have died on the vine or been acquired by U.S. winners and moved out."

Expert doesn't have looking, then. So it is entrepreneurial class that knows how to grow company past the start-up stage. "What you see, especially in small technology-driven businesses, is a shortage of people who know how to grow the, how to manage them."

So what? So the rest of the world will see these mistakes whether Canadians do or not. "One day you wake up and there's a company called Huawei," Manley said, naming a burgeoning Chinese telecom giant. "People say, 'They make crap, we don't have to worry about them.' Well, five years later it's not crap anymore, and their price are a fraction of what the established equipment suppliers are selling."

So that week we bring news that the leader of Canada's largest universities, and the next leader of the country's biggest business group, face challenges facing the country that governments have to address. Here in Ontario for the last few years, we have all enjoyed an extraordinary situation from a business thinking that vacation's almost over. ■

ON THE WEB: For more Paul Welle, visit his blog at wellecanada.ca/underreporter/

Fear of a Red planet is just what we need



ANDREW POTTER

The open media reports this week that NASA's robot rover Spirit, stuck in the Martian equivalent of a ditch, is still spinning its wheels in the deep powder like some suburban driver trying to free his SUV from a snowbank.

NASA scientists have been working hard trying to figure out some way of refueling the space buggy first, and they hope to give that a shot in a few weeks. But in the meantime, the trapped robot's explicit reason for perfect metaphor for humanity's current economic malaise.

proposed space station. There are more humans in orbit than ever before, including two Canadians. www.nasa.gov

No. The mission comes framed against the station given to the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission that saw humans become around for the first time on another world. And in light of what Armstrong and Aldrin accomplished, and the era of great exploration that everyone expects would follow, the billion-dollar of astronauts spending around in low orbit, still caught in the clutches of the earth's gravitational pull, looks pretty pathetic.

As Tim Walle, the president of Armstrong's quest for the stars, put it in a recent op-ed for the New York Times, "If anyone had told me in July 1969 that the second of Neil Armstrong's small step was the shuffling of politicians at gridlock, I would have awarded myself a medal and shaken my head in pity."

But here we are, after decades gone, and the questioning voices of humanity are dead and buried. Not only have there been no manned missions to Mars and no permanent human bases, no human has so much as stepped out of orbit since 1972. It's as if humanity, having learned to swim by being tossed right into the deep end, spent to spend the rest of the time by the pool clenching the edge.

For decades now, the "space program" has amounted to little more than shipping some humans to orbit, sending them in manned ships gliding up through the atmosphere, and—once safely free of the clanking restraints of the—stepping dead, only to what about the earth in the name of science. Imagine if Columbus, having brought the Nima, Pinta, and Santa Maria safely back from the new world, spent the rest of his career trading beads and furs in the harbours of Mexico, studying academics or using chronometers.

Of course there are real-world reasons for why we've spent the last five decades doing space dead-end. It's expensive. It's hard. It's slow. It's cold. There's no air. No gravity. And when they aren't thinking, getting lost, floundering in ocean physics class, at getting stuck in space dust, robots can do whatever technology things we need done up there.

But we all know the real reason we should do space exploration. Communism failed, the American way, and history said. John F. Kennedy did a good enough job of dragging the moon mission in a lot of "for all eyes" policy. But that's not the UN flag stuck

in the dirt in the Sea of Tranquility. That's the Lyndon Johnson character in *The Right Stuff* put it, "I for one do not go to bed at night by the light of a Communist moon."

The space race, and all the hopes and dreams it inspired, was always a creature of the Cold War, an unlikely superpower relationship. That doesn't mean the death it inspired was false or not worth pursuing, only that it is on this field of striving, the peaceful struggle for recognition, that courage, honor, and daring find their home.

There is nothing noble or honorable about our ambitions space race there, no reason to be taken in what we're accomplishing. Putting together the space station is dangerous work, but big deal. So to working on an off ring, and we don't build massive rockets or jump system to get to work.

It would be nice if the Chinese got more aggressive in space, especially if they were to make a serious

goal. Perhaps the fear of the planet becoming a Red planet would help shake the Americans out of their orbital slumber. But it is not America that is the real problem here, nor is it about the "We" it is the honour of all humanity that it is on the line.

Because the odds are that some day, eventually, we're going to be visited by an alien civilization. It may be next week, it may be in the year 1700, but now the non-existence of new this galaxy is surely going to fill up with a burning curiosity of life. Intelligent races will rise who will look to the spiral arms of the Milky Way, wonder what's across the next level, and set out to take a look.

When they get here, what will they find? An intelligence that has been spent on having with Facebook and iPods and Xboxes while a great galaxy unfolds over their heads. Indeed, we may have missed our window of opportunity to have earth, with all the development in information technology, the spread of moving around space, before a comparison to the only consciousness of mind on earth.

But the chance will all. On the way they have the chance to see the Spirit rover, stuck for millions in the Martian mud. They'll look around and see our footprint on the moon, no bigger than a baseball field. And they'll point at us, gleefully laughing gods, the people that had a billion to the stars and not, "no thanks!" ■

ON THE WEB: For more Andrew Potter, visit his blog at wellecanada.ca/underreporter/

MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON STAMPEDE HOCKEY AND THE PLAYBOY PLAYMATE WHO SAT IN HARPER'S CHAIR

JASON KENNEY MOONLIGHTS AS A HOCKEY COACH

Nothing says Calgary Stampede like lively games of hockey. While the long weekend fested into an off-weekend, Alberta Conservative MP Blake Richards organized the Wild Rose Hockey Challenge charity match between MPs and Alberta M.L.A.s. Entertainment Minister Jim Prentiss played centre. Jason Kenney was one of the coaches. "He's a good motivator," quips Richards, "not so good on the strategic side." The former head of the NHL's Dallas Stars, Zach Boychuk and Jay Rosenthal, who was injured in a Toronto Maple Leafs game, says Richards was trained for the MP's role as not an M.L.A. during the game because the M.L.A.s were doing so poorly. In the end, the MPs won 17 to 1.

The event raised \$16,000 for victims of crime families. Richards is helping keep up the athletic reputation of the MP he replaced in the last election. Conservative Myron Thompson, "he was quite a ball player," notes Richards of Thompson's younger days. "He ended up for the New York Yankees. He could really hit." Richards, who used to work for Thompson when he was an MP, says his old boss is now selling an old building for use in their patch and on farms.

SHANNON TWEED'S PARLIAMENTARY TOUR GUIDE

When celebrity couple Ross and Gene Simmons and former Playboy playmate Shanon Tweed landed a tour of the Parliament Buildings, they were just in touch with Ottawa MP Pierre Poilievre, a 30-year-old conservative. Conservatives not exactly known for moving inside star circles. Tweed, a former Newfoundlander, had con-



THE WILD ROSE HOCKEY Challenge in Calgary drew (from left) Pierre Poilievre, Gene Simmons and Shanon Tweed; (from left) Rick Syrota, Jim Prentiss, Blake Richards, David Kestler; Myron Thompson (left), Alexa Michaluk (right)

vinced Tory supporters and former Ontario councillor Linda Davis, a friend from the days when the actress was living in Ottawa. Davis headed her and Simmons up with Poilievre, who took the couple to the library of Parliament and the House of Commons, where Tweed sat on Stephen Harper's seat and Simmons sat in Foreign Affairs Minister

Stimms thought he looked like "an old club." Poilievre replied: "The Senate isn't an old club." Poilievre says he was happy to help boost Ottawa's tourism appeal by getting the sights of Parliament Hill onto a popular TV show. "I like Gene Simmons," he says. "He's a great entrepreneur."

MP CHASTISED FOR FASHION CHOICES

The NDP's busy putting together its convention in Halifax, which starts Aug. 14. The painful moments of the event are MP Megan Leslie, 35, and Manitoba MP Nikki Ashton, 26. Leslie's staff are crashing at her place but there will be no social media selfies at her house. "Have Simon in the backyard," says the MP. The anti-shrimp, anti-onion bugs problem is bad. Leslie has been keeping up shops for the event, working on and keeping her arms toned.

During the last session of Parliament, Leslie was chastised by a female Conservative member who said an MP should never go sleeveless. Leslie disagreed: "I have the right to 'bare' arms," she quipped. "And I'm going to show them. I want them to look good." Good thing the message didn't make Leslie's campaign.

ALEXA'S DANCE PERFORMANCE

Alexa Michaluk performed in the presence of Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. It's a bit of a full circle moment for the former NDP leader who, as a child, went with her dance class to the then women only university and performed for the same.

ON THE WALL: For more Ottawa updates or to contact Mitchel Raphael, call mitchel@cap.ca

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'THE WHOLE LANDSCAPE HAS CHANGED'

Lessons from its fiery past saved Kelowna from a raging inferno

BY JASON KIRBY • All wars are defined by the terrain on which they're fought. As the great Kelowna fire of 2009 gradually receded from the subdivisions of this picturesque B.C. community this week, the pitched battle to defend the Grouse Grind lumber mill, the biggest employer in West Kelowna, was far from over. In some ways, it was the last of its kind: a major battle to defend a major mill, a major employer, a major subdivision. It was here that an informal coalition of firefighters, helicopter pilots and mill workers emerged to save the day, braving flames and survival back to the mill's main building.

Nick Ardile, the mill's chief foreman, was on his way back from downtown Kelowna on Saturday afternoon when he spotted the fire in the hills above the mill. Ardile, who married the daughter of the mill's founder, quickly learned the fight was on. "Two of my brother-in-laws' homes, including that of company CEO Ron Gormezano, were already engulfed in flames. Meanwhile, the fire, barely 200 m from Ardile's front door, was advancing fast. Then, as he tried to rescue family photos and keepsakes, the wind suddenly changed, pushing the flames down the hill toward the mill. "The job was to save the homes," he says. "This is a very family-oriented company and the loss of the mill would be a huge impact on the community."

The family was a shaken crew of 20 men, many of whom had happened to be in the mill on that day having accidents. As firefighters arrived to tackle the blaze, and half a dozen helicopters dropped buckets of retardant on

the approaching inferno, workers sprayed water onto roofs and doused piles of sawdust. When spot fires broke out in the yard, crews met with hoses pointed. When stacks of lumber caught fire like matchsticks, employees used heavy machinery to haul away nearby stacks of two-by-fours. Dozens of other workers, fired to leave their own homes, came to help. For 48 hours, day and night, they battled against the fire. Finally, on Monday the mill was deemed safe. By Tuesday afternoon, helicopters could still be seen fighting the blaze on the other side of the ridge, but life was slowly returning to normal as the mill "Yesterday was the first time we felt we could start to breathe normally again," Ardile says, the smell of smoke still thick in the air. Two lines, though, for the three families who lost almost everything they owned in the blaze.

Three houses (the measure of a wildfire is simply the real estate casualty count), then this week's fire could hardly be compared to the devastating firestorm that swept through Kelowna in 2001, destroying more than 100 homes. But as residents here know all too well, the impact of a fire is felt in the fear it sows and the ability of a community to rally together to face the heat of danger. That fire offered examples of both.

No question, there was fear. Rather than a simple blaze, there was a widespread outbreak of each other and around West Kelowna over the weekend. As of Tuesday, a fire near the community of Glenora—where one that threatened the mill—had reached 250 hectares, about the size of 750 football fields. Another blaze in Rice Valley had hit 170 hectares. Fire officials had assigned to contain 60 per cent of the Glenora fire, while the Rice Valley was about 20 per cent contained. Meanwhile, the third and most aggressive fire, at Terrace Mountain, about 40 km to



the north was already up to 1,300 hectares, having nearly doubled in just a day.

At the first peak, authorities had told more than 11,000 people to evacuate their homes (by Tuesday, 6,000 had been allowed back). Many were already curiously watching the fire as it approached their homes. "I could see the flames rising the hill," says Darlene Walsh, who lives in Rice Valley. "It was about a 40-minute walk away from the subdivision, but you could hear how close it was getting now." Many had just minutes to gather their belongings, a sign of how unbelievably fast the fire was devouring the landscape.

THE ROSE VALLEY FIRE (ABOVE) REACHED 150 HECTARES IN SIZE, WHILE THE GLENORA FIRE Grew TO 250 HECTARES, AND TERRACE MOUNTAIN HIT 1,300

As dense smoke billowed, there was just enough time to "grab the kids, the photos, and the animals." And the thousands of residents drove down from hillside homes, traffic ground to a halt at times. The scene reminded Glenora residents Mark Wyle of the street fires in Australia, where many escaping residents were trapped in their cars and died. "I thought, 'That's not good, that isn't good,' but the RCMP opened up the other lanes and everyone started moving again," he says.

Once cut off from their homes, though, many residents could do little but wait anxiously for word from the front line, wondering whether their houses were safe. Leroy Harland and his wife, Gloria, camped out with their trailer in the Williams parking lot along with at least two dozen other fifth wheels. Every couple of hours they'd call their emergency home to make sure the answering machine was pulled up. That way, they knew whether the power was still on. Each phone call brought a new assurance. "At least we know the house is still there," says Leroy. Despite the threat from the fire, though, some residents refused to leave. In those in-

RESIDENTS GAVE THEIR DENTISTS' NAMES, IN CASE DENTAL RECORDS WERE NEEDED LATER



stances, police asked them for contact information, such as next of kin as well as the names of their dentists, in case dental records were needed to locate identity their bodies after the approaching danger was anything else.

Authorities don't yet know how the three fires were started, but they do know that houses are most likely to blame. Some have speculated the blazes were triggered by sparks from the wailers of dirt bikes. Others believe smokers irresponsibly tossing away cigarettes were the cause. Throughout Monday's fires,





SO MANY PEOPLE BROUGHT DONATIONS, EVENTUALLY THEY HAD TO PUT UP A SIGN SAYING THEY HAD ENOUGH



SPRUE: HANGS OBVIOUSLY OVER KALAMAZOO At the fire's peak, more than 11,000 people were at the site, mostly by accident. Some only had time to grab their kids, pets and phones

called to a radio show described young drivers casually testing cigarette butts out their car windows. Onlookers started down license plates and were told to report them to police. Sadly, there were other examples of recklessness. At several police roadblocks, a few drivers blazed through checkpoints, narrowly missing officers. There were also scattered reports of looters ransacking abandoned homes, even though police maintained a constant vigil in downtown night neighborhoods.

Still, these few outbreaks of day winebikes were dwarfed by examples of a community rallying together. Enraptured residents had to make their way to an ad hoc emergency centre to register for provincial government

food and emergency medical vouchers. The scene at the centre, which was set up in a community gym, was one of organized chaos. An army of volunteers took down infant car seats, while others from the Salvation Army dispensed hot meals and water. But most people had tried to bring donations of food, toys and clothes that organizers eventually had to put up a sign pleading with them to curb their generosity. "Donations—We have plenty in this time. Thank you!"

"The rescue also many cats and dogs were forced to leave behind, pairs of all sizes, from kittens to dogs to horses. The SPCA mounted rescue missions to recover many animals, while groups like the B.C. Interior

Horse Rescue Society and other volunteer organizations retrieved hundreds of strayed horses from areas burned. Meanwhile, the radio call-in lines lit up with thank yous for area businesses, like Domino's Pizza, that had donated food and drinks to rescue workers. According to one Walmart shopkeeper, the company brought in two tractor-trailers full of wheat to give to emergency workers. "You think kids are coming into a big city and people are getting colder, but that's something like this happens and you can feel everyone's warmth," says Wilb.

Those who watched as 200 firefighters, helicopter and an aviation banded aid by all accounts began to subside the flames, could take heart that lessons from the 2001 fire were heeded. After that inferno, Glen Maddox, a former Vancouver fire chief, helped pen a provincial review that laid out a series of concrete recommendations. Now a fire-fighting consultant who works with fire departments from B.C. to California, he says the quick response by emergency officials and the speed with which firefighters were able to tackle the blaze all point to those recommendations having worked. For one thing, it used to be only the province that could order evacuations. In 2001 that was fine, because residents had plenty of warning the fire was coming. Since then, local officials were given evacuation powers, which this time was crucial given how fast the fire moved. There was also far more communication between forestry officials and local fire departments. "There has been a marked improvement over what we saw in 2001," says Maddox. "The whole landscape has changed."

As of Tuesday, no one was foolish enough to say the danger from these latest fires in West Kelowna had completely passed. Yet, half of the evacuated residents were back home. Firefighters also appeared to be gaining an upper hand against the two fires raging closest to the city. For those homes whose homes were destroyed, the long process of clearing up their homes and rebuilding their lives was now beginning. Investigation, meanwhile, showed the blackened flames floor trying to piece together how the blaze started. But this is the B.C. Interior, so what is also shaping up to be a very busy, very dry season. Another fire broke out near Princeton on Monday, although it was quickly subdued. Others are certain to follow. Whether they be serious enough to cause evacuations on the same scale as these fires remains to be seen. One thing is certain: A whole community is now on edge. "This is a part of the Okanagan experience," says Arns, the chief forecaster at the Canadian Wild. "Unfortunately, as we've seen once again, when nature does its thing, it can be destructive." ■

A crackdown on queue-jumpers

Will the Tories make bogus refugees claim an election issue?

BY NICHOLAS KÖRNER • Conservatives—especially those in the front row—have always disliked the Supreme Court's 1985 Singh decision. It ruled that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms applies not just to Canadians, but to anyone who steps foot in Canada—even foreigners who arrive illegally and find themselves stuck in the asylum seeker limbo. Because the ruling specifically required that asylum seekers be granted oral hearings, it led to the creation of the Immigration and Refugee Board, an independent, quasi-judicial body that now determines who does and doesn't warrant our protection.

Last week, Jason Kenney, the minister of immigration, mentioned that it was high time that Canada give its refugee system a makeover. The topic came up while he was fielding questions about the federal government's controversial decision to slap visa requirements on Czech and Mexican nationals travelling to Canada, a move made in response to the record number of people from both countries who've filed refugee claims here in recent years. It wasn't the first time Kenney has called for reform.

In a letter to the editor published in the *National Post* shortly after 9/11, Kenney defended his then boss, Canadian Alliance leader Stockwell Day, against accusations he would not pursue a robust policy toward bogus asylum seekers "for fear of being branded racist." Not true, Kenney wrote instead, using language that echoed Reform party founder Preston Manning's earlier criticism that Singh stood upon the "pre-negatives of Parliament," he noted that the Alliance had consistently proposed solutions such as "the detention of all undocumented arrivals until their identity is verified," as well as "accelerating the length of detention and developing a system that helps 'legitimate' refugees," rather than "investments and those who are not."

Those were heady, post-Sept. 11 days, that was the Kenney of the Canadian Alliance. Today, he is a Conservative minister. And the immigration portfolio has fallen after a successful term unifying the Tories' newly diverse ethnic-voting constituencies, a job that saw him glad-handling voters whose support has traditionally gone to the Liberals. Still, it

discusses changes he'd like to make to Canada's current refugee system, his language is strikingly similar to that old, yellowed letter to the editor—such a subtle change in emphasis. "I'm the minister responsible for over 900,000 people around the world who are patiently waiting in the queue to come to Canada, on average taking five-plus years to arrive here as permanent residents," he told Maclean's. "I cannot tolerate a situation where they are people simply getting a place to rest, a room to live, saying the magic word 'refugee,' getting quick-handed status, getting a work permit and/or welfare benefits. That is

exactly what we want to remain in Canada for so long. There is one of only two refugee systems in the world that begins with an oral hearing, and, unlike most European systems, doesn't maintain a list of countries from which applicants won't be heard [the U.S., for example, was a top 10 source country for refugee claimants in 2007 and 2008]. Although it's rare, regard claimants who apply to remain here on humanitarian and compassionate grounds or because the situation at home has worsened can prolong their Canadian sojourn by 10 years or more. "The system can be used and abused by anybody with a good lawyer," says the Fraser Institute's Martin Callahan.

There's even the issue of the adjudicators who preside these claims: the members of the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB)—who too often are selected at much for their political connections as for their credentials (Recall Steve Ellis, a former Toronto city coun-



MEXICANS were outraged when Canada suddenly announced they'd need visas to visit

as a result to the millions of people who aspire to come to Canada legally."

As it stands now, Kenney argues, Canada's refugee system creates "a de facto two-tier immigration system: a slow one for law-abiding and a fast one for lawbreakers." Kenney appears to have his own different approach to handling Canada's refugee system, one that mentions his old enemy with Singh but it's not the same time it took to the very consistency that that handle stands: once ruled showing new Canadians.

The creation of Canada's refugee system isn't well known—it's overgrown, accepts applications from countries with questionable rights records, and that its convoluted procedures offer too many repeated chances to

offer and Liberal IRB appointees, who've gained a bad reputation for allegedly offering to approve a South Korean woman's claim in exchange for sex, the matter is still before the courts.) Determining how adjudicators are selected isn't a simple process. When former immigration minister Thomas (Paddy) had suggested that Immigration Canada (IRB) chief James Gray resign over concerns the changes would favour politicians' wishes. His departure was followed by the dramatic leave-taking of five of his colleagues.

The latest focus over visa is a particular bad news for already emboldened system. Ordering the visa inspection post in Czech and Mexico, Kenney says, won't be easy. "I take no joy in the difficult decisions we had to make." Now



STRIP MEDIA can no longer conceal Kim's decline. But the regime's increasingly hard-line stance means as a signal that he remains fierce.

DANGER ZONE

With Kim Jong Il's failing health, relations with North Korea are more fraught than ever before BY NANCY MACDONALD

It's been quite the year for North Korea. The Hermit Kingdom rang in July 4 by firing seven short-range missiles. In May, Pyongyang shot down a Japanese spy plane that launched out the windows of several U.S. agencies, tested a nuclear weapon as powerful as the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima—two days after testing up the coast that ended the Korean War. Since April, it has also walked away from disarmament talks, resumed its nuclear reactor at Yongbyon, tested out international negotiations and sat workers, pulled two U.S. reporters, and cracked up war rhetoric against mad South Korea. No, it's not the first time Pyongyang has threatened to turn Seoul into a second Hiroshima; millions among us grew up on high alert. But combined with the naming of an heir—Kim Jong Il has apparently appointed his third son, 16-year-old Kim Jong Un, to succeed him, according to South

Korean intelligence—it amounts to a lot of news from Dear Leader's regime. Not since Kim Jong Il took power in 1994 following the death of his dictator father, and purges, suicides and helicopter crashes, has North Korea's behavior appeared so erratic, say top Pyongyang watchers. Not one thing seems clear: the tub thumping is aimed at a domestic audience, first and foremost. To North Koreans, it suggests that Kim, dramatically reduced by a stroke (and, if most reports are true, suffering from pancreatic cancer), remains fierce and in charge. That same message is also aimed at anyone who might attempt to capitalize on his new semi-shakable physical weakness. A sign is every dictator's biggest threat, according to Chang Gook, who has faced such attempts to rise suddenly as the late '90s. And for Kim the current danger is real: North Korea is effectively bankrupt, he can barely afford to keep

the lights on in his bare-boned, and possibly it is said to be mourning. For all anyone knows, there could already be a power struggle in this state scaled off from the outside world. "If there is an incipient coup under way or being planned," says Nicholas Litzow, a North Korea expert at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, "we will be the last to know." Kim looks haggard. Even state media can't control it. The probably is gone, his skin is pallid and his left arm appears paralyzed. The new, headline shift in foreign policy is "directly related," says Selig Harrison, director of the Asia program at Washington's Center for International Policy. Kim, who needs the backing of nuclear hard-liners, says thousands as he pines the way for the hardcover of power, has "greatly reduced" his work schedule, says Thomson. Day to day management has been turned over to his brother-in-law, Chang Song Chul (the rumored to be born in 2006, having been pegged in 2004 and rumors he was building a new power base). In April, Chang joined the hawkish National Defense Commission, the government's de facto top organ,

which usually goes from right to left, number the biggest it's ever been. The widening suggests it is being developed as the core of a military-dominated collective leadership (as in Burma)—all will ostensibly loyal to Kim. Two months earlier, Yanhui, South Korea's biggest news agency, reported that Chang had shifted support to Kim Jong Un (from Kim's eldest son, Kim Jong Nien), and will engineer the succession. Chang and others may well be playing along now, but when Kim dies the gloves might come off. "There's a deep political uncertainty about what is going to happen after he passes," says Marcus Niland, a North Korea expert at the Washington-based Peterson Institute for International Economics. But for now, "individuals and institutions within this system have a strong incentive to demonstrate their loyalty. Everyone wants to show how 'down with the program' they are—a dynamic that lends itself to snatching up behavior or suggesting conservative or reactionary tendencies."

Alarmingly, one area where this may be occurring is in Pyongyang's nuclear strategy. For 20 years the regime has been playing nuclear chicken with the world, establishing a goal only to exploit them by remaining on the negotiating table and winning only, all said good-will in return. But the recent tests have raised stakes higher than usual. According to the going hypothesis, they are more than just posturing. "Some months ago a decision was made in Pyongyang to go nuclear at all costs," says Paul Brann, an expert at Asia Pacific Studies at the University of British Columbia. North Korean officials smile no longer about their desire to be recognized as nuclear-armed state. The test in May, believed to have been up to 10 times as powerful as North Korea's first nuclear test almost three years ago, was felt to far away as China's northeastern Jilin province—and brought them into very clear

Like his father, Kim tries only his relatives when it comes to top security organs. Unlike his father, who ruled through North Korea's political boss, Kim took power with very little support from the Korean Workers' Party. Instead, he is "totally dependent on the military," and much more dependent on domestic success, says Jennifer Lind, an East Asia specialist at Dartmouth College. "Whether the transition fails, however, a far from clear, says Niland. "And the nuclear complex, the party and military rule this very complex."

So far, Pyongyang hasn't made any official announcements. But according to South Korean intelligence, North Korea's embassy and consulates have been told that Kim has designated his third son as his successor. And soldiers are said to have adopted a new slogan: "With all our hearts, let's protect Kim Jong Un, our young general, the emerging star

general who inherits the bloodline of Pae Hui-unification confirmation may have come via his eldest son, Kim Jong Nien, 38, who was considered his father's natural successor until 2003, when he was snubbed (trying to crash into Japan on a false passport to meet Tokyo Daewoo). Interviewed by a Japanese TV station in the Chinese gambling haven of Macau, he said yes, the succession reports were true. The other brother, middle son Kim Jong Chul, 25, was reportedly deemed "too effeminate" by Kim Il-sung for his daughters, well, gender parity turned out to have been another of Chairman's failed promises.

Most of what is known about the next Kim-

As a child, he was a North Korea with type and pride and sent around in the general of the Kim name. Dubbed the "Great Leader" by the CIA, Jong Un is said to have attended the International School of Science in Switzerland, and to have continued studies at Kim Il Sung Military University in Pyongyang. A party line last year, he believed to be the spitting image of his father: like Kim Il-sung, he was thought to suffer from diabetes and high blood pressure.

But even the succession drama plays out, the elder Kim has put millions of his countrymen at risk of starvation by shunning humanitarian assistance, including \$600 million, and rolling back economic liberalization. In March,



NO TURNING BACK: Experts say North Korea has now decided to go nuclear at all costs



SOUTH KOREANS watch the footage of a North Korean missile launch (left), Chang Song Chul (bottom left), and photos of youngest son Kim Jong Un, eldest son Kim Jong Nien

a "big brother" with a readiness for bedchamber, married officials and Jean Claude Van Damme movies—comes not via the CIA or South Korea's national intelligence service but from Kim Jong Il's former wife Chul-Kyong Paeng (a pseudonym), who worked for Kim for 20 years and became a kind of companion. Kim Jong Un, he wrote in his memoir, First Kim Jong Il's Chief, was one of at least five children born to Kim by three different mothers. He and his elder brother Jong Chul were born to Kim's third wife, Kim Yong Suk (a Japanese-born woman who died of cancer five years ago).

Pyongyang rejected all food and from the U.S.—since the famine, the single largest food donor—killed on the aid program, and has failed to request emergency deliveries from the South. Aid has dried up anyway in the wake of the nuclear test, says the UN World Food Programme. The UNWFP has received just 15 per cent of the \$594 million needed for the last months leading up to North Korea's November harvest, and is scaling back a planned relief operation to reach 6.2 million people in just two million. Already, nearly 40 per cent of children are "chronically mal-

LEE JOO HAN/AN AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTO

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nounced," according to UN data. Last year, even after North Korea posed one of its strongest growth performances of the decade, its economic growth rate still ranked 233rd in the world (ahead of only Zimbabwe and three others). The bottom fell out in the nineties, thanks to the collapse of the Soviet Union—and the end of preferential trading and friendship pacts—and outdated technology and infrastructure. When a few years GDP was halved, entering in the late '90s, when a possible famine that killed as many as 3.5 million people (or fewer, one twentieth of the population, which stands at 23 million people) began.



KIM STILL commands loyalty, but when he dies, some say, the gloves will come off

Starved of cash, North Korea turned to illicit revenue sources. Last month, the Wall Street Post unearthed evidence of a global business front, which has netted hundreds of millions of dollars on large and suspicious claims for fines, train accidents and floods from insurers including giants Allianz Global Insurance and Lloyd's of London. Meanwhile, law enforcement agencies have for years linked the regime to weapons exports to Iran, Syria and Pakistan—which earn Pyongyang \$100 million per year—and the trafficking of narcotics and counterfeit currency and cigarettes. ("Like the mob—but with nukes," is how *Forbes* characterizes the regime.)

Byung, which spends 16 to 18 percent of its foreign aid budget on Pyongyang, also accounts for nearly half the quarterly of North Korea's total trade. Pyongyang is counting on continued Chinese support, yet opinions in China, which appears to have been caught between by the recent nuclear test, conducted in June from its border, is shifting. Media has been scolding an editorial in the *South China Morning Post* said a "showdown" was "on the way" the "unilateral regime" had become "with the world in the 21st century." Beijing itself has taken an increasingly critical stance on Pyongyang's nuclear program. Last month, it voted in favor of new UN sanctions. Some voices here of fear have been "irrevocably

opposed—tensions are to a public speaking. But when Kim and his advisers, Beijing is the biggest loser. His critics encourage South Korea and Japan to build up their own militaries and declare whether they too should go nuclear—a disastrous scenario for China, which fears an erosion of replacing the U.S. as the region's dominant power. At the same time, the regime's weakness is a danger for Beijing. Not only would a fallen North Korea potentially unleash several million armed refugees over the border, but potential sanctions of the economy under Seoul would create a large, democratic, pro-American ally on its border.

Yet China is not the only nation that has an interest in North Korea's continued existence. A breakdown of the regime would have a global effect because it would require the "transfer of all humanitarian commitments," says Lind, who, with a colleague at the RAND Corp., is investigating democracy, political and humanitarian issues. Some predict a breakdown and destabilize the wall around North. They argue that some 500,000 soldiers would be required—more than the combined number dispatched to Iraq and Afghanistan. Further complicating this, many of North Korea's chemical and biological weapons programs and military units are based in a maze of underground tunnels. The specter of loose nukes is even more "horrifying," thanks to the regime's extensive smuggling ties, including rumored links to mafia across East Asia. And unless South Korea was motivated by a huge influx of Western aid, it is unlikely that the world's 15th largest economy will readily entertain Kim Jong-il's mutations—which, 30 years on, still aren't fully taken.

"You could go broke here, against North Korea," says Noland, whose most famous work is a 12-year-old piece for *Foreign Affairs*, titled "Why North Korea is a nuclear danger"—explained the regime's remarkable resilience. "That said, it is a very different kind of difference." Different—and more dangerous. "Totalitarian regimes exist to deny us the right to peacefully and do such things," U.S. journalist Robert Kaplan once wrote. The situation in North Korea is demonstrating that. Positions are hard to hold all around, including in Beijing. At this point, says Evans, the chance of an insider traitor escalation from even a small incident looks increasingly likely: military confrontation, he adds, is "for more miles" than at any point in the past two decades. ■



SHE'S JUST SO MAINSTREAM

A Supreme Court nominee brushes off ethnicity and gender

BY LINDA OR BAYROE • A career thing happened on the way to the new seemingly unshakable confirmation of Sonia Sotomayor, Barack Obama's first nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court. The nominee herself was transfixed.

Sotomayor, a long-time appellate judge of Puerto Rican descent, who rose from a Bronx housing project to graduate with a law degree from Princeton, had for years presented herself as a different breed of female judge than, say, the only two women who have that far made it to the top court. When those justices, Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, graduated from law school in the 1950s, they had to justify why they were taking the place of a male student. O'Connor graduated third in her class at Stanford Law School, but barely achieved so low at the time was as a legal secretary. Every step of the way, Ginsburg and O'Connor were at pains to prove their equality. A favor-

ite saying of theirs was that a wise old woman and a wise old man would make the same conclusion when deciding cases.

But Sotomayor, who graduated from Yale Law School in 1979 and became a federal judge in 1992, took a more contemporary, even postmodern, view of gender and ethnicity that went beyond mere equality. In a 2001 lecture at the University of California at Berkeley, on the need for more diversity in terms of women and minorities on the bench, she argued that there is often no objective right answer to legal questions, and so judges' personal experiences will influence the outcomes they reach. And in a recent report that has yet to come to court, but which she repeated in several speeches to legal audiences, Sotomayor lauded O'Connor

and Ginsburg's openness on such issues as gender and ethnicity. Sotomayor's first Supreme Court nominee, received a student course at her hearings.

and Ginsburg's openness on such issues as gender and ethnicity. Sotomayor's first Supreme Court nominee, received a student course at her hearings.

The reaction in conservative circles was predictable. But Latham called her a racist. So did Newt Gingrich. During her confirmation hearings last week, one Republican senator after another dwelled on the same theme, as well as other stereotypes such as this one she made in her speech: "Whether born from experience or inherent physiological or cultural differences, a possibility of either bias or discrimination that recognizes."

Judge O'Connor, on gender and ethnicity, and will make a difference in our judging." On another occasion she had said, "I wonder whether achieving the goal of impartiality is possible in different cases, and I wonder what her ignoring our differences as women, men or people of color we do discriminate about the law and society."

But despite the intense questioning on the subject after her confirmation hearing, Sotomayor did not explain how gender or ethnicity could affect judging. In fact, contrary to her earlier speeches, she denied that it did. She said that she had not been trying to inspire audiences of young minority lawyers and law students, and that her repeated challenges to the O'Connor-Ginsburg model had been nothing more than a "historical footnote" that "did it." Judges, she now insisted, are a diverse bunch from the sophisticated nation that the law is sometimes indeterminate, simply apply the law to the facts.

It was, as far as the confirmation process goes, the prudent course to take. There is a narrow range of acceptable comments for



MALAYSIA: LITTERBUGS

The mayor of one Malaysian town is sick of seeing garbage as he walks. So he's formed an official league to rid the streets of rubbish. Police are instructed to board a vehicle in the event of a catch caught littering—before slamming the car with \$95 fines. "This is the best way, because people will feel embarrassed," Mayor Osman bin explained. "Offenses have got to be taken the correct way to prevent on litterbugs and not on the spot and on the spot."

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judges to make a new Chief Justice John Roberts put it during his Senate confirmation hearings, "judges are like umpires simply calling balls and strikes. Outside the televised hearings room, in law schools around the country, however, the nature of judging is seen in more complex, and the role of gender and ethnic diversity viewed as invaluable far more than mere symbolism."

But Sotomayor, who would be the first Hispanic, and only the third woman, appointed to the United States Supreme Court, and is the very embodiment of the movement for diversity, summed her back up all that. "What life experiences brings to the process—it helps you listen and understand. It doesn't change what the law is or what the law commands," she said. "I do not believe that any ethnic, racial or gender group has an advantage in sound judging," she said.

Democratic senators on the judiciary committee tried hard to demonstrate that her 17-year record as a judge was squarely mainstream, and unmarked by ethnic or gender bias. The conservative chairman, Patrick Leahy of Vermont, pointed out a study showing that out of the 97 most cited laws that Judge Sotomayor participated in as an appellate judge, she had reversed discrimination claims in 80 of them. New York Democrat Charles Schumer cited another study showing that in the nearly 500 asylum cases she dealt with, Sotomayor ruled in favour of the governments, and against the immigrant seeking asylum, 81 per cent of the time.

Sotomayor was pleased and "astounded" by her dismissal of her "white Latino" persona, and political pundits pronounced her hearing a great success. But people who had spent years building the antiracial case for a diverse judiciary were treated by the committee in a way that she perceived to be racist. Midway through the hearings, Georgetown University law professor Louis Michael Seidman pronounced her "100% openly displayed" by her testimony. "If she was not perceiving herself as an institutionally unqualified to sit on the Supreme Court," he wrote as the May of the Federalist Society, a legal organization.

The hearings were "visually unfortunate," Seidman later told Michael, because of the "fairy tale" view of judging she endorsed. "A lot of constitutional law turns on deeply held narratives understood as something about how the world works...and having people on the court with different views about how the world works is likely to result in wiser decisions," he said. "I think one of the saddest things to see there was space for her to say something different. Democrats had no voice in the Senate. They could have confirmed her had she been a lot more honest." ■

Protests and a Nokia boycott

BY PATRICIA TREBEE • Thousands of opposition supporters took to the streets of Tallinn last Friday after Ayman al-Nabih, Hizbullah's Khatib, an influential cleric and former president, publicly called for the government to release those detained in protests following the controversial June presidential election. But even as those demonstrations were underway, a different kind of protest was unfolding: a companies' decision to place in the post-election crackdown were targeted with a boycott.

An opposition daily, *Ernast*, reported that Nokia sales here have slumped in half because the Finnish firm provided its Telenor with the ability to monitor local communications from fixed and mobile phones last year. For members of the "Telenor Revolution" who used their phones to tell the outside world of the protests and government crackdowns, there is a very real worry that their assets and values will get them thrown in jail. An online watch group, OpenNet Initiative, recently reported that several activists were shown transcripts of their texts.

Nokia, which dominates the Estonian mobile phone market, has also been the main target of recent protests. Ben Roome, a spokesman for Nokia Siemens Networks, a joint venture of the electronic giants, told Radio Free Europe: "When we sell any network, anywhere in the world, we sell it knowing that whatever rules that network has the ability, potentially, to listen in to phone calls." The explanation isn't turning back overseas. Some Telenor phone shops reported that, even though Nokia phones have fallen, people are exchanging their Finnish phones for other brands.

The Estonian firm isn't the only target of frustrated opposition supporters. Citizens call an anti-trust TV act but expressed other protesters' angry boycotts of all advanced products. There are also reports of people shifting accounts from government to private banks. And the pressure is starting to show. In Tallinn, some doubled the cost of taxis, as an effort to keep prices up as, perhaps, to slow the spread of the boycott. ■

Old wounds, new violence in Belfast



Republican splinter groups still want to stake the sectarian line

BY JULIAN HERRICK BRADY • Once again violence has flared across Northern Ireland. In Ardara, a Catholic district in north Belfast, republicans threw petrol bombs, stones and bottles, leaving 25 police officers. The friction between nationalists and loyalists arose following the July 18, an annual and contentious—celebration of Protestant King William III's victory over Catholic King James II at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690.

The men seen to have been orchestrated by a small number of dissident republicans from outside Ardara with the hope of stoking sectarian tension. "When conflicts end," says David Brannan, an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at Washington University in St. Louis, "these are frequently splinter groups that do not support the larger peace process and may remain active for many years after a peace agreement has been signed."

Disturbingly, children as young as 10 or 11 took part. According to Neil Ferguson, an associate professor of political psychology at Liverpool John Moores University, people in a student, passed down from generation to generation. "People perceive that their actions link to their actions on the streets of Belfast in 1969 and those of their fathers who engaged in civil protests in the late '60s." The results have been frightening. "I saw young people last night running each other on mobile phones saying come on, up, it's my turn, it's the place to be," said Father Gary Dempsey, a priest in Ardara, who said independent "you would think they are into East Disney rather than a riot."

"Splinter" groups can overtake peace processes if they are well armed and/or widely supported by the populace," says Brannan. Northern Ireland may have come a long way, but the dark past still casts a shadow over the present. ■

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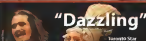


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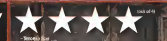
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THE FUTURE IS TINY

It's not just cars that are getting smaller, so are car companies

BY COLIN CAMPBELL • If you think every one in the auto sector is feeling good these days, there you'd be talking to John Venuti. The vice president of sales at Hyundai North America says the recent carnage has been receding, but good news. Sales for the South Korean automaker are up "in every segment," he says—amounting to an overall gain in sales of 20 per cent during the first half of this year. "When this downturn hit, it just didn't things up for us," he says. Thanks in part to the demand for Hyundai's smaller cars, the company has suddenly emerged as one of the fastest-growing players, not just in North America but globally. It's now the fifth-largest carmaker in the world. In quality surveys, a rank ahead of Toyota and Honda. Market share is up, sales are up, and opportunity abounds. Despite the tough economic conditions, "we quietly celebrate here," says Venuti.

That kind of tale should have struggling industry players such as General Motors, which just emerged from bankruptcy protection, in great mode. It is, after all, a recovery story that dates back 20 years ago when Hyundai was best known for the Pony, a small, cheap and just plain ugly car. Today, Hyundai has one of the hottest cars on the road with the Genesis, a mid-sized executive sedan that won the North American and Canadian car of the year awards. "We would have over thought we'd be selling a car over \$40,000," quips Venuti. "We can't keep them in stock."

Instead of the Big Three, now we have "seven or eight players, none of which dominate, and all of which are competitive and very motivated," says Jim Libby, a Detroit-based independent auto analyst. "It's very different from what it was 20 years ago."

Keeping track of all these new players doesn't require a flow chart. While GM has been desperately downgrading its stay alive, other much smaller and once unheard-of manufacturers have been steadily catching up to car-afraid. Hummer was bought by

Saturn, a unit of General Motors, and is now a separate company. It's still a viable player in the industry. Toyota has lost more than \$4 billion over the past year, but still holds the number one spot in the world, with close to 10 million vehicles sold globally. GM is still hanging on to the number-two position, with sales of 8.4 million vehicles last year, but it's sure to fall, especially after selling off its European arm, Opel. (One of the leading bidders for that company is Canada's Magna International.) Volkswagen is now the most

engineer in the world, and its cars, which nobody knows how to make, are sold in more than 100 countries, says Jim Libby, a Detroit-based independent auto analyst at Milieu University in Ohio. "It's like picking up all the pieces on the board and throwing them up in the air and seeing where they land," he says. So while they fight for market share, carmakers are also adopting a close eye on the rear-view mirror, and the dozens of new electric car manufacturers are keeping up behind them.

A few years ago, Tesla, for instance, was a novelty act, selling a niche electric roadster that costs more than \$100,000—hardly a threat to a top 10 manufacturer. But now it has more than 1,000 orders and is set to launch a mass-market car in 2012.

MARKET fragmentation is great news for John Venuti (top right) and Teale (bottom).



THE BIG BOYS MUST NOW COMPETE WITH A HOST OF NIMBLE RIFLES

a Chinese company that makes two trucks. Both were bought by Renault, a French car company that makes a handful of high-end supercars each year. Both are companies that got stuck taking the scale to become mass-market carmakers, yet they're suddenly players in the world's most competitive auto market. Hyundai's vice president says he already said that it will set its sights on selling American-made cars. He's calling on companies to make a new, all-electric Hummer. "I think that in the long term they will play a significant role in the market, just because of the support of resources they have and the technology they have," says Libby.

With the sudden surge in competition, it's anyone's guess which companies will eventually end up on top. It's not even clear what kind of technology will be driving cars in 20 years. Everyone understands the past game-

been opening design and expanding its distribution network. Tesla was recently valued at \$1.4 billion by the U.S. government to build its new urban, and occupancy never. Then Musk told that Tesla will "own even more profitably" this month.

Government money, like the loans that helped Tesla, is helping to muddy the game even more, by providing big bucks to help start-ups and accelerating their growth. Not only are they providing interests and development funding, governments are also providing incentives to lure consumers to the new technologies. The government of Ontario, for instance, spent the last two weeks, with a plan to offer more than \$10,000 as incentives to buyers of electric cars by 2012—one of the largest electric car incentives in the world.

even today. "Inland cities, innovation will survive and come out stronger than ever," Libby says.

The one thing that everyone agrees on is that the biggest winners from all this innovation will be consumers. Buyers are now being courted by a bunch of desperate, hungry car makers, who will have to put increasingly better cars on the road to win market share. Their offerings will be more energy efficient, less expensive to buy and operate—and perhaps most importantly, better looking. Libby says we can expect more innovation in car design, and more in the way of safety plans, reduced carbon dioxide emissions.

Then predicts that the future lookings will be the companies that can only have the most innovation, but which figure out how to best market their new cars globally. With the cost of simply designing a new car already at a billion dollars, carmakers need to scale up and make new mistakes. China's market has already grown as large and important as the North American one. (There are now more GM cars in China than in the U.S.) In a few decades, we may be talking about 20 million global competitors. And it's quite possible that at least one of today's major automakers won't be on the list, says Libby.

This consolidation is one reason why few analysts put much faith in an electric start-up emerging as a major power. While they may provide much of the innovation, the ones that don't fall will likely be swapped up by global behemoths looking for a technological edge. That's what Canada's Stellantis Motor is banking on. It has decided to move away from building cars in focus on the new history of the company. Elio, the company's new car, is a small, two-seater, four-wheeled car that is miles ahead of the latest Lotus Evija. Lotus is currently being used by most electric carmakers.

That kind of innovation is the X factor in the race for the top. While hardly anyone expects it to start up in a corner of nowhere and make the crown, some unknown company could hit the market with a truly unique technology—like the kind of the auto world's white space. Major carmakers must be best, up-to-date, and have a clear vision of the future. Hyundai's Venuti doesn't say. "We think of ourselves as the next Big Three: Hyundai, Toyota and Honda," he says. A long shot? Maybe. But in the current economy, one thing is clear: anything is now possible. ■

EMPLOYEE
of the
WEEK

PHARMACY HOUSE CALL SAVES LIFE
John Jones, a 70-year-old living in Buffalo, N.Y., hadn't answered the phone for days. His two daughters were worried, but live in California and had no way to check up. So they called their mother a druggist. Shawanda Percece answered. The pharmacy tech rushed to Jones's house, and found the elderly woman in a condition. Jones was rushed to the hospital, which saved her life. "You called me. I'm going. That's that," said Percece.

OUR UNIVERSITIES CAN BE SMARTER

PART II of II: Canada's 'big five' presidents have an ambitious plan for fixing our schools

BY PAUL WELLS

Perhaps we are not putting too many words into the mouths of the presidents of Canada's largest universities when we say some things are nagging at them. Aspects that things have become skewed at Canada's higher education system, and more broadly in the way Canada's economy and society face an uncertain future.

How else to explain the decision by these five top university presidents to approach *Maclean's* for an interview? And how else to explain that—after their aides had leaders took care to assure that the five presidents had "no specific role" when they offered to sell—they showed up with an agenda for major change in their own institutions and in Canadian society at large?

Over the course of a 90-minute video conference, the big five presidents said their institutions must be given the means and permission to act themselves in a further part from the rest of Canada's universities—to pursue world class scientific research and train the most capable graduate students, while other schools concentrate on undergraduate education. The vision they described would be a challenge to the one-size-fits-all mentality that has governed Canada's higher education system.

But these five are not only concerned with their own institutions' place in the pecking order of Canadian higher education. The president called for what one of them, David Naylor of the University of Toronto, called a "five universities" conference on the university system. "The question that would face the Prime Minister and the provincial premiers at that conference would be: how can Canada improve its performance in putting new ideas to work in the private sector?"

Such a summit-level attempt to grapple with Canada's lagging performance could amount to another major change. And it reflects a growing concern among academic leaders that the biggest failure to adopt new ideas doesn't lie with universities or governments but with a timid and risk-averse corporate



MCGILL PRESIDENT Heather Marshall-Bloom (from left), U of T's David Naylor, UBC's Stephen Toope, U of Alberta's Irene Semkenchuk, and U of L's Vincent of the University of Montreal

culture. That's why, if first ministers don't act to discuss innovation and the knowledge economy, "having university leadership there with government and universities is also highly crucial," said Heather Marshall-Bloom, principal of McGill University.

If anyone is consistently heard to worry about the future, of course, it's these five, superb academics and gifted administrators. Along with Naylor and Marshall-Bloom, we talked to Stephen Toope, the president of the University of British Columbia, Indra San anandani of the University of Alberta, and Luc Vinet of the Université de Montréal.

They have had a lot of a wild year: The new reformer has played with the endowments due, pay some of these bills. Governments are looking for short-term revenue projects but have done more on the difference, but the presidents can't be sure that taxpayer handouts are still there. In 1990, the last time federal and provincial govern-

ment gave half some standards, some objectives, some goals. This is not a perfect, incompatible with certain goals.

The penalty for drift, Naylor said, is that Canada could be perceived as a second rate destination for foreign students and international students. As changing demographics reduce the supply of Canadian-born students, Naylor perceives "very real opportunities for Canadian universities, particularly the leaders, to draw a large number of international students, larger than ever before."

But for Canadian universities to be attractive, the best among them have to stand out among the best in the world. "Could it be that we simply aren't producing enough nationally disruptive innovations, breakthrough scholars, proportionate to our numbers?" Naylor asked. "It could be that we simply get to a certain point and don't quite break through the ceiling."

To produce or lose the world's best scholars, UBC's Toope said, universities need to graduate more students with higher degrees. "But it is the level of a nation's best ones that is important to the level of the U.S. We are not producing at the level of our American colleagues, and actually many others in the OECD," he said. "I suspect that's an indicator of a relative lack of overall performance at the highest levels."

But the problem isn't even lower, Alberta's Semkenchuk said, with a limited supply of undergrads. "We do very well in terms of retention on post-secondary education in the OECD," she said, but those statistics can be misleading because they include Canada's

lowest. These universities already perform at the international level in research and teaching. For research funding, infrastructure and research chairs. In the Canada Foundation for Innovation's latest grant round, for instance, the big five together earned over 40 per cent of all funding. So surely they must that process to continue.

"If you strongly support the very highest forms of international peer review," Semkenchuk said, "and you drive toward excellence, and you create pools of funding where people can compete at an international standard, you will then encourage and enable certain institutions to differentiate itself."

A system of winners and losers, in other words? Naylor is quick to argue the opposite. "Canada would probably be well served to have a large number of small liberal arts universities, more than we have now. And to see those as somehow losers in a game of higher education is entirely wrong."

So more resources for the large research universities to support their ambitions. And more funds for smaller liberal arts universities to excel at their own level. But if the small schools would carry less about research, the big ones would put less of their resources in undergraduate education. The University of California at Los Angeles, a highly ranked research university in the U.S. just three undergraduates to every graduate student, Semkenchuk said. At the University of Alberta, it's five to one. "That's not a good ratio."

Feeling needs to reflect the fact that good students, who are specialized and other materials and need close attention from leading scholars, cost more to educate than students who do little more in British Columbia, it doesn't, Toope said. He'd like to welcome lower undergrads, send those students to new universities the provincial government has created in the past three years, and then put more money toward graduate education and research. "I think we can get to a point where the balance is."

As he looks into the conversation, the five presidents had called for more research money, the ability to concentrate more on graduate education, fewer undergrads, more international students, and the right to charge higher tuition to return for overseas students the assistance to the least affluent students. It's a tall order. And yet, Toope argued, "over the course of the last 10 years we have seen the creation of programs that actually move in the directions we have been suggesting." The only problem—and it's a big one—is that there's been "no overall strategy," Toope said, "no overarching vision that relates to what the feds are doing and what the provinces are doing."

So the discussion was moving from ends

THE BIG FIVE SHOULD PURSUE WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH WHILE OTHER SCHOOLS FOCUS ON UNDERGRAD EDUCATION

ment got serious about offsetting budget deficits, they did it through painful short-term cuts to university and college budgets. Will that happen again?

It certainly will, political leaders continue to regard universities as a nice place to cut ribbons, but not an important resource in addressing Canada's broader challenges. The big five presidents worry about risk and lack of direction in our higher education system. That direction can only come from political leaders. So all of the presidents, even Marshall-Bloom, called for Ottawa to pay more attention to what happens in Canada's campuses.

"Of course it is a costly issue given the jurisdictional aspects," Vinet said, referring to the way Canada's Constitution assigns education to the provinces, not the federal government. "But I really think that as a

large population of community college students. "The actual number of university graduates per capita, we're middle of the pack or lower. And that's the group that eventually supplies the Ph.D.s and the innovators and the disruptive thinkers."

But if the problem is too many Ph.D.s, then the government is too many. Does some government are going to have to concentrate on the mission of innovative research and scholarship. "These five presidents want to volunteer. "Canada maybe a beginning to recognize the need for differentiation," Semkenchuk said. "The view that everybody needs to be equal"—in research, as academic institutions, in research, plus fewer means out of joint. "But the reality is, that doesn't go against the winners."

So what are these five asking for? Not special budgets but fair being who they are, they

PHOTOGRAPH BY VIKTORA SHUB

MCGILL, NAYLOR



ALL FIVE CALL FOR OTTAWA TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO HIGHER ED, A PROVINCIAL MATTER

to mean—from the world, the provinces would like to reinvent, as the mechanisms forgetting Canada there. A decade ago, Jean Charest was meeting with the premiers every few months to address issues in the health care system. "Was that the sort of thing this one wants now? Were they calling for a five ministers' conference on higher education?"

Naylor's answer could instead have been a five ministers' conference on the innovation economy was surprising. "What's the difference? Well, a meeting about universities, gives Canada's universities and colleges, quickly becomes a jurisdictional dispute. A meeting on broader questions avoids that pitfall."

But the five premiers were also eager to recognize that Canada's most pressing problem is the ailing economy, and that universities are only part of the solution.

"Right now the best is an economic recovery," Naylor said. "A big part of the issue is how we move creative and innovation from university benches out to the marketplace. And I've said it before and I'll say again, universities don't, cannot realize, commercialize as well as companies, not by universities. So much as I'd like to be part of a lot of special life science post-secondary, I think the best right now is on the innovation economy, and we're part of that. But we're not a driver."

Matthew Blain is a member of the federal Industry Department's Science, Technology and Innovation Council. This group's first report, in May, showed that Canada's private sector performs far lower than comparable countries in implementing research in inno-

vation and science. Blain's list includes that any innovation summit must also include industry leadership along with government and universities.

Then things start to get a bit awkward. federal government is, provincial governments, academia, industry. What are its chances of actually getting anything done? Blain-Blain said the odds of such a meeting not leading will increase if everyone comes to the meeting with their own agenda. "It may be that we can for some pilot project. Choose a sector or two from an industry point of view, business point of view, and bring together the government and university and industry leaders who want to work together."

And if they have time to talk about some other issue, the day's done. Naylor noted off a half-dozen topics that would see government at attention. The issue of tax credits for corporate research and development, for instance. "It's incredibly expensive, it's often ineffective. As a time when we have falling government revenues it needs a close look." Or the National Research Council, the fed-

A KIND OF first minister conference on the innovation economy is in order

in house research branch. "We spend \$150 million a year on the NRCC. It's doing what it needs to do as an applied research and commercialization entity. There's open questions about that."

After a decade during which governments from two different parties attempted to create a forest of boutique programs to encourage the transfer of new ideas from the laboratory to the market, he's a little sceptical. "It's almost impossible for anyone who's trying to build a company to anticipate that."

By the end of the discussion, then, the five premiers had established, as a consensus, that there is a lot more to discuss. Canada's

academic culture gives a respectable education to fill labs and is home to pockets of genuine genius, but often falls a little short of the world's best. The schools that would like to see by that most exciting research have precise ideas about how they should change to attain those goals. And they are eager to start a broader conversation about how to help Canada make it through the current economic crisis and get back on the path to greater prosperity.

Coming after a year of constant crisis in Parliament during which very few of the debates were about such substantive matters, the five premiers' meeting came at a time but also as a warning. There are the signs our leaders could discuss, if they could only look up from these vertical objectives for a moment. And these are the signs the rest of the world will discuss, and act upon, whether Canada gets to act together or not. ■

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BLACKBOARD JUNGLE

ALBION ABDUCTION LEAVES KIDS TRAUMATIZED

Shirley Willet of a British junior school just before students were led to a crowded assembly, where a class of 15-year-olds were told they knew it was an event for developing writing skills. The QPC was told, and police came to the school (parents weren't informed). Many of the kids—who were as young as seven—thought it was a full-blown alien attack and went left in tears. At least if it will give them something to talk about once they're recovered.

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WHEN oceanographer Joanne Klyne realized what the acid would do to marine life, she had to run to the bathroom to throw up

AN OCEAN OF POISON

B.C.'s majestic killer whales are dying as their ocean home surrenders to the stress of pollution, global warming and carbonic acid

BY HANCO MACDONALD
Eighteen on a midsize oil
drill vessel in the Juan de Fuca
Strait off the coast of B.C.,
and Dr. Peter Ross has yet
to spot a killer whale. After
one day, the animals are
hardly elusive. They return to the waters
between Vancouver Island and Washington
state every summer to hunt big, fat chinook
salmon, which make up 60 per cent of their
diet. In July, Victoria's whale tour operators—
which send out a new boat every hour—claim
a 91 per cent success rate. Spotting a pod is
"pretty much a guarantee," says Ross, a crew
chief, foraging along marine mammal toscan-
gists with the Department of Fisheries and
Oceans. But B.C.'s 35 southern resident killer
whales have not been seen in three days, and
it's putting some people on edge.

Last year, seven southern residents dis-
appeared, the biggest mortality one-year loss
in a decade. They vanished suddenly because
they came back here every summer for the
chink (chinook) feast, scientists had noted a
condition known as "peanut head," a dip
in the blubber below the blowhole, making
impossible respiration. The die-off coincided
with a low year for chinook returns on B.C.'s
south coast, and Ross believes the southern

residents are going hungry since that sum-
mer. Led by the scientists, the oldest females,
who retain a corporate memory of area fish-
ing grounds, he figures the whales have left
their summer stamping grounds to hunt chin-
ook elsewhere—wasting needed energy in
the chase.

The killer whale is a powerful messenger.
In the Pacific Northwest, where it has mys-
terious status, it waxes at the top of the
marine food web, acting as a key indicator of
the health of the ocean below. In southern
B.C., an "omni" has been grim lately, and
there are signs it will get worse. Scientists
have long been concerned about the con-
tinued threat of pollution, global warming
and overfishing, but now they say the whales
are facing a terrifying new threat that will
affect the entire marine food chain: the water
is slowly but surely becoming more acidic.

More than 60 per cent of the heat gener-
ated by domestic energy and a third of all car-
bon dioxide released into the atmosphere
washes up in the ocean. That carbon dioxide
is washing 116 billion tons—a sea anemone
eat, as scientists once thought. When it dis-
solves in being so toxic it produces an acid
molecule known as carbonic acid (the same
substance found in soft drinks). Scientists pH
is now between eight and 8.3 in most areas,

36 percent lower than in pre-industrial times.
If trends continue, the ocean's pH will fall by
0.1 by the year 2100—a 130 per cent increase
in acidity. Dubbed "the other CO₂ problem,"
researchers say it's beginning to ripple out
what it will mean for marine communities.

In 1993, before the issue had hit the
scientific radar, oceanographer Joanne Klyne
was on a British Columbia ship with top U.S.
biologists. With access to early experimental
data, she was doing "back of envelope" cal-
culations relating to ocean pH when,
"all of a sudden," she realized the math was
spelling a potential ocean disaster. She was
so shocked by the magnitude of the problem
that she ran from the boat and drove away
up north to her home. The geological re-
cord of "terrifying," she says from her Boulder,
Colo., office at the National Center for Atmos-
pheric Research. The last time the ocean's
pH changed anywhere nearly as rapidly was
55 million years ago in an event oceanograph-
ers call the "Petrified Ocean" (fossilized ma-
rine life), or PETM, and there was a mass
extinction of calcareous organisms. Now "we
see carbon track 10 to 10 about 100 years what
PETM did over 1,000 years," says Deborah Ben-
son, a climate modeller with the Department
of Fisheries and Oceans.

While sea grasses and jellyfish will thrive
in more acidic environments, marine organ-
isms with calcium carbonate shells like jelly-
fish, brachiopods, shells and mollusks start to
dissolve within 48 hours as seawater as acidic
as the oceans are projected to be by the end

of the century. Ocean corals—which are already
suffering the impacts of global warming, local
pollution, overfishing and habitat destruc-
tion. Battered by so many stressors, coral
reefs, which are home to 25 per cent of all
marine life, will almost certainly disappear,
robbing fish of the crevasses and critical re-
lapse from the swarming "wall of seaweed," says
Simon Fraser University biologist Nick Daley.
Some 20 per cent of all coral reefs have already
been destroyed, including a full 80 per cent
of all Caribbean reefs, while another 50 per
cent teeter on the brink.

Coral, with its calcium carbonate skeleton,
may remain a major victim, but there have
been some surprises. Squid—which have no
shell—have trouble swimming when pH is
artificially lowered in the lab. Clams, which
are not in the fish-finding nets, become disor-
dered and have difficulty find-

ing their kin. Second-
stage to a five-month-old
study in the journal of the
U.S. National Academy of
Sciences. Other data suggest
certain marine species may
show sensitivity to acidifi-
cation at the larval stage.

It's early days yet, but the
acidification process is ap-
proaching 10 times faster than
previously believed, accord-
ing to the literature. And a
controversial study, sam-
pling chemical water prop-
erties from B.C.'s Queen
Charlotte Islands down to
Baja California, showed that
the pH in some places had
already deteriorated to lev-
els not anticipated until the
end of the century, says
Larson, the coastal study's lead Canadian.

Another study, published three months ago
in Nature, suggests that southern ocea-
nographic organisms called foraminifera
are already showing distress.

Scientists are now struggling to predict the
ocean's weather and, lower, so they can work
out food webs, fisheries and ecological im-
pacts. Already, it looks like the killer whales
will be one of the losers. Studies show that
acidification will likely impact killer whales
by disrupting the food chain they use to

navigate and find prey, by abating the way
seaweed is absorbed under the sea. More gen-
erally, as the ocean grows more acidic, their
food sources will be thrown off. Killer whales
eat chinook salmon, and the salmon in turn
eat tiny zooplankton or "sea butterflies." And
"unless zooplankton can develop protective
mechanisms to prevent shell dissolution within
this century, they will not fare well in the
future," says Vanessa Palmy, the world's lead-
ing zooplankton expert, who spoke at Macdon-
ald's research station in French Polynesia.

Ocean acidification is "incredibly increas-
ing" during periods measured in mere dec-
ades, according to Britain's Royal Society. Its
effects, however, will not begin to be felt until
mid-century. So there is some hope that city
an organisms will adapt to the rising acid
levels. Many of them multiply several times
every day, so they will have some 50,000 gen-
erations to adapt to new con-
ditions. Other
organisms, however, can
live multiple years, so it's
not clear whether there
is enough time for them to
evolve. In paleogeology,
a quick change takes over
10,000 years, but the acid
infliction of the ocean
appears to be happening
over a period of 50 to 100
years.

Still, that may be enough
time to avoid the impending
catastrophe. On the coast
near the rocks, Peter Ross
from the Department of
Fisheries and Oceans
points to an example that
proves how successful we
can be when we do act. It's
a self-seeded and he's been here now—more
than 100 days old, by his estimate. He
notes that the seeds were once reduced to just
23 individuals, but now number more than
100,000. They're moving into B.C. waters,
and in February, the province recorded its
first birth. Nearly, gulls have formed a firm
nest, separating a local population of "beach
birds"—when the fish form a ring, offshore
birds see the ocean surface. From here, it's
hard to believe anything so deeply wrong
could be brewing beneath it. ■



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A LITTLE LADY BEATS UP A BIG BEAR

Finished to the north by a 400-lb. bear, breeding badly and losing
consciousness, it was almost over for Heather's Topknots. But the
53-year-old Siberian woman gathered her strength, screamed,
and repeatedly punched the bear in its muzzle. The animal was
so shocked it ran off. Topknots walked home, covered in blood,
and collapsed into the arms of her husband. He took her to the
hospital, they tracked down and shot the bear.

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NO KIDS, NO GRIEF

Elaine Lau was 35 years old and had been married for a year when she met her husband, Jack Somers. She decided that they didn't want children. "Before that, we didn't give it a lot of thought," says the Vancouver-based folk reporter who writes the popular celebrity blog *LooseyGoosey.com*. "I was just an assumption, 'You got married, you have kids.'"¹ From late exposure to a close relative's three young children and the rock they acquired provided a wake-up call, Lau says. "That killed it for us. We just looked at each other and said, 'We don't want them.'"

ben harried with users why they should change their minds, from "Your life will be no value if you don't" to "You'll be no longer when you go old" so Lori's answer to "Don't you want to know what your children would look like?" "Any baby we'd have wouldn't be mine," she says. "See, you guys, 'Oh it would be so good for you,'" she laughs. "And I'm like, 'Wow, that's really going to make me want to change my whole life.'"¹⁷ It is like the couple enjoys they work together on her website (he handles the business side), golf together, engage in community volunteer work, and date on the go. *Miscue*

As hubs and rethinks, Lori and Samowski

belong to a tiny but growing minority challenging the final frontier of reproductive freedom: the right to say no to children with out being labelled social misfits or selfish for something they don't want.

her baby boomer and the main lady. Part
echoes in magazines, saying "I don't want
kids" is akin to "There's nobody on the plane".
In the past, those who chose not to have
children did so quietly, whereas Tanenhaus-
born Ms. Pincus was vocal. Her 1998 memoir
Parenting: Pincus by Pincus was acclaimed as
groundbreaking, a candid recounting of her de-
cision not to have children. "It has been an
intense and underground conversation," Pincus
claims, noting many childrenless women can
reconcile her stance. "At last, someone is calling
out what I've been saying silently."

Increasingly, though, the childrenless by choice
are vocal about it. Laura and Vincent: Childless
are socioprosper for No Kidding, a social club
for non-parents founded in Vancouver in 1984
that now boasts more than 40 chapters in five
countries. Laura, a 35-year-old attorney in
New York City, refers to children as "a tolling,"
one she and Vincent, a Ph.D. candidate in
social psychology at Rutgers University, have
both experienced. "I've been told that it's
made such a sense through change, but because
it was something someone expected of me," she
says. "Children should be something people
have because they really want them."

Spending up on the subject can elicit a
melancholy. Last February, the 37-year-old
British journalist, Emily Tennant, wrote a defi-
ant column in the *Guardian* questioning
the notion she didn't want children. "I'm
apparently fatuous," she wrote. "But isn't it
really 'Thank You, God, I think I should do what
you say to me' and emotionally I'm a little
bit of a mess?"

my children, my finances, my life style and my independence." The response was astonishing, the support "frenzied, tear-soaked, understanding me, empathizing, giving. I was denounced at first, still, an inferior, unusual, evil. I was soon outshined by reports to my baby-boom journalist Polly Vennem, who, who observes celebrity for a living, seeing what she sees as a genuine tragedy and saving heads of the '50s in which motherhood was celebrated as women's highest calling. She pointed across Broadway to Garrow reminding me relevant to the celebrity pain simply by being photographed with her two young daughters, and to Toni Topping reaching her destination after breaking up her current husband's marriage by charming out Kenneth Allen about motherhood. "Motherhood is the ultimate womanhood," she says. "Good, someone's husband, or a drug addict, has become a mother and you're redeemed."

In a culture in which Jennifer Aniston's character, provides overly subtle lessons on how to be a female star, my own past and words a decision to remain a mother and a woman.

In a recent interview in *U.S. Comptrol*, the 36-year old actress Carmen Electra, who, in childhood, expressed a disinclination to have children, citing environmental reasons: "We didn't need any more kids. We have plenty of people on this planet." She sound as great still, "I don't want women to be afraid to say that they 'I can't' have children because they're going to be punished." But she also expressed enjoying the role as woman. "I love me."

trifling who don't have kids to those that do," she said.

Now the children in North America have their most defiant advocate in a mother of two: Constance Maize, a 45-year-old French psychobehaviorist whose memoirs, *No Kidding: An Good American Not to Mow Children*, was set a fever when published in France last year. Count on the news happening where it's released here this week. *Amusing Males?* hard was advice: "If you really want to be honest in a parent, get a gigolo."

The sexual shift in attitudes toward children is not a new evolution in the social group, with the bygone "child free" replacing "childless," a word long mistrusted for conveying a cold or handpicked. The children minority has always been with us. But in the past they may not have been aware of the contours of mainstream academic or social debate, to the extent it was even considered. It was assumed that they could be due to some biological reason or choice not to be. As genetic research has been having had a hard childhood themselves.

The arrival of the pill in the 1960s, which allowed women to delay childbearing, also permitted them to forgo it altogether. Sugar pill usage pegged up to flow like-minded people 10 pregnancies—the first being the National Organization for New Parents founded in Palo Alto, Calif., in 1972.

With the advent of the "child-free" came a rebirth of its reproductive alternative.



For a province that is as demographically diverse as Ontario, the province's economies at the University of Toronto, points out, social factors also play a role. The most significant being female education, which was also altered by the post-war arrival. "The higher the education a woman has, the greater likelihood that she won't have children," he says. This is consistent across cultures, he notes. The birth rate in Iran when women go to university is lower than that in the U.S., where census data reveals voluntarily childless women have the highest incomes compared to other women. In the U.K., 50 per cent of university graduates aged 16 have children, it has been suggested that at least 50 per cent will stay that way.

Why this is happening is the subject of much theorizing: educated women date childbearing until it's no longer an option, they choose to pay what economists call the "market price" of fertility in which the return of university education is weighed against childbearing and then drop, while fathers' incomes are unaffected, they recognize that raising children is a matter of time, money and freedom they're not willing to trade, or, more simply said, you're to have children.

are able to say no

(The latter is complicated, Fort observes, because income level is also linked to prison rates. What is known is that paying women to have children doesn't work, she only may be proven to increase the chances of women having children in re-offering positive social networks, as indicated by the strong fertility rate attributed to governments interested in Scandinavian countries and France, where generous tax breaks, incentives, and maternity and parental leave provisions have resulted in the birth rate rising to 2.7 per woman, the highest level in Europe.)

A growing literature on childlessness has emerged. It has been deemed a "revolution" in *The Childless Revolution: What It Means to Be Childless Today* by Madelyn Carr, here if a mother. Academic treatises such as Mandy Ireland's *Reconsidering Women: Separating Motherhood from Female Identity* attempt to diffuse stereotypes. There are also the cheerleaders, too. Nicki Delag's *Childless and Loving It!* And she who has been published in bookstores as *Walter's Sister: The Baby Book: How Family Priority America Chooses the Childless*, which contains the "child-free" subtitle "freedom."

The array of narratives reveals that the choice not to have children can be complicated or dismissed—as the desire to have them, reflected in Nohdy's *Master List* without kid, a 2004 anthology of essays by a diverse group of Canadian women, and Nohdy's *Father from the inside perspective*, published in 2002. Many women know they didn't want children as children, a theme backed by research in *The Childless Revolution* that explains the notion that the impulse not to have children is genetic, like being gay. Most never had eyed that the choice required a new ascription. "Children were not a way of measuring happiness or defining my days with meaning," the poet Leanne Creaser writes. "That hard truth sentence alone." The American author Loralee Shreve, who never wanted children, writes in *Separate Free Birth* that her first husband "was not the embrace I needed." Imagine bearing a child and then realizing, with this helplessness, irrevocable little person spilling in its crib, that you'd made a mistake. Why, really, in this instance, would you pay the price?

Not to book on the subject has been more provocative in unmarried women than those. Colleen and No Kid, as *Good As New: Not to Have Children* is the first time in the *Freudian* analysis by the author. The former her 2004 book *How to Live Without a Kid* and the importance of being the first to write the *Workplace* pull out the country's first only has workplace culture. In *No Kid* she deploys an acronym to dismiss the idealized depiction of parenthood perpetuated



HOLLY PRACCO with her husband, Michael, and their two young children in Toronto.

by the French term, "the family champion of Europe," a distinction granted by the country's media like a sporting triumph. Speaking from her home in Brussels, Maier says she was prompted to write *No Kids* by a conversation the had with two female friends in their 30s who told her they felt like social deviants because they didn't want children. That perception is well-founded, she writes. "To be childless is considered a defect, an error, a judgment, those who can don't want children are still the object of pity." But Maier believes "consciousness objects to this fertility mythology" should be recorded, not refuted. "To have a kid in a rural country is not the act of a citizen," she writes. "The state should be helping those who decide not to have children, less unemployment, less congestion, fewer wars."

She admits there are times she regretted having her own children, now aged 14 and 16, a decision not that has probably haunted her a "bad mother" whose children are destined for a lifetime of therapy. The 30-year-old says when many modern liberals think but not allowed to say. In 1979, Ann Landers famously told readers: "If you had to do over again, would you have children?" Seventy per cent of respondents said "no." Maier repeats that when she had her children she was really in awe, a harbinger to her husband as she brought into the modern parenting psychology that children could be psychoanalytic. Raised as an only child, she believed children would

and her feelings of loneliness. Instead, she says, their arrival caused new forms of loneliness. The professional psychologist cuts through the glossy romanticized depiction of parenthood presented in France, which has far less to do with love of children than "a form of membership in a community," she says. Maier doesn't mean words, calling babies "torments," and breastfeeding "slavery." The idealized children offer fulfillment is also dismantled. "I was told I would be breaking new to most parents: children left desire in a new rage and can be demanding money pigs. Without them, you can keep up with your friends and enjoy your independence."

Research backs Maier's sentiments. Daniel Gilbert, who holds a chair in psychology at Harvard and is the author of the 2006 best-seller *Stumbling on Happiness*, reports that childless men are far happier. He also reports researchers have found that people derive more satisfaction from eating, exercising, shopping, napping, or watching television than taking care of their kids. "Indeed, looking after this kids appears to be only slightly more pleasurable than housework," he writes in *Stumbling on Happiness*.

In a 2007 Pew Research Center survey found people insisted that their relationship with their children are of the greatest importance to their happiness. Gilbert believes the reason people say this is because they're

expected to. He puts it in direct counterpoint to the more popularly believed, the more highly they need to value it, and children are expensive. The latest data suggests it costs upward of \$251,000 to raise one child to age 18.

No kids is less an ideal politics, however, than scabbing out moral criticism. Maier has posed the modern family "an inward looking prison focused on the child" and the prevailing emotion that celebrates reproducing one's DNA as "the ultimate evidence of happiness." Over intensive focus on children sign cultural cramping, she argues. "Children are often used as an excuse for going up or life without really trying. It takes real courage to say 'My life!'"

Parents, not non-parents, are the selfish ones, she avers. "Every baby born in a developed country is a biological disaster for the whole planet." She's pessimistic about these babies' future prospects, a thing French women their children will be "loser babies" destined for unemployment or to become factory drones. Many blame capitalism, which allows people to opt out of parenthood, for ironically slowing the parenting gyrene. One, "people had children because they had them," she says. Now, every child must be a destined child, which requires of parenthood a "performance worthy of Superman or Superwoman."

And that in turn has created a backlash

among the childless that is less focused on children than on modern parenting itself, what Laing calls as the "income only" and Vernon calls the "prosperity of Babylon," building, Maier's book demands. "Like Maier, Vernon doesn't like what parenting does to grown ups. 'Spice up the sex-track conversation! Spill the self-righteousness, the sense of mission.' Some me the great traditions of martyrdom and selflessness. There's nothing about having a baby, she argues, pulling out *The Parent* and "You really want to be selfish? Adopt, lover!"

Shriver is less rigorous about the in parenting choice, admitting "there is something selfish about seeking to reproduce, selfish in the worst way." She explains "Take individual fulfillment as the excuse of parents' head to the heart, and one generation has a crushing good time, after which the entire human race, poor, vanishes from the planet." (This, in fact, is precisely the goal of the most extreme childless advocates out there: the Voluntary Human Extinction Movement, which says, "the hopeful alternative to the extinction of millions of species of plants and animals is the voluntary extinction of one species: *Homo sapiens* us.")

Parents, not non-parents, are the selfish ones, says Maier, who calls the modern family 'a prison focused on the child'

Now that we're all generationally reproducing childlessness, research is beginning to reveal the long-term consequences. Ingrid Connolly, a sociologist at the University of Western Ontario and the author of *Family Ties and Aging*, has conducted pioneering studies among people 50 and over that distinguish between those who are children by choice and those who are childless by circumstance. All have adapted, she says. "But the children by choice are more content, have higher levels of well-being and are less depressed." She has also compared levels of satisfaction between the children and parents, dividing the latter group into parents who have a good relationship with their children and those who do not. "Parents who don't have good relationships with children are not as happy as people with good relationships with their children or people who are childless by choice," she says.

Molly Pracco's husband, Michael Graden, an English professor at the University of Western Ontario, says he has no regrets about not being a parent. Now 62, he and his wife, who never had a kid, got married in 1975, when she was 19, married 15 years ago. "Raising a child was not made that a conscious thought for him," she says.

As part of his doctoral dissertation, Vincent Casuso is investigating why men choose to remain childless—never. As with women, the reasons are all over the map, and include "best interest of relationships," career motives, none, "fear of failure in a father," "not liking kids," and "the desire to remain in their current lifestyle."

Connolly's research also explores the common concern that the children will be lonely or bitter in old age. She found they're less likely looking in support than those with children. "They've missed their own work," she says, "not being people without children are more likely to end up as a nursing home. Her conclusion: "There's no guarantee that having children will make you happy or not having them will make you sad."

Of course, the idea that parenting choices should be happiness was one of the other has modernity written all over it. But what if happiness appears to stem from is not children or their absence but rather the ability to make the choice.

Maier, who is a brilliant contradiction of her own claim that women have to choose between motherhood and success, knows her politics would have been ignored if she didn't have children, she would have been judged "a better, jealous sibling," she writes. *No Kid* pun her in a no-win position, she says she is a laugh. "People think I'm a bad mother. But if I didn't have children, people would have said I'm a person who is not happy because I don't have children."

It's an ironic Catch 22 that it takes a parent to argue the choice not to become a parent. But somebody has to do it. As Elaine Lai points out: "Why didn't you had for the right to make the choice, only to have it not accepted when you do it?"

PARIS: GREETING TOURISTS WITH A SMILE

Paris, notorious for its high prices and less-than-friendly locals, has been hitting tourists attending dozens of law-by-murders are down 17 per cent from last year. So its tourist board has come up with a simple solution: smile. Visitors will now be greeted at popular destinations by official "smile ambassadors." Residents are also encouraged to turn their heads up when they're dealing with the lost or confused.





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Sarniehta Subramanian & Patricia Treble



MERGERS



SEAL and Heidi Klum (left), (from top right) Miranda Hart, Planet and Salma Hayek, Maggie Grace, and Peter Onorato, Daniel Westling and Princess Victoria



MEL GIBSON & CECILIA BALBOA

Mel Gibson, the brutal one-time champ of *Braveheart*, confirmed on *The Tonight Show* that he has a new girlfriend, a great wife, child. The new love is Cecilia Balboa, 28, who he met on the set of his 1997 film *The Man in the Iron Mask*. Gibson married the 28-year-old on April 15, 2005. He is now a father of two. Gibson, 45, is a man of many talents. He is a director, actor, producer, and writer. He is also a father of two. He is a man of many talents. He is a director, actor, producer, and writer. He is also a father of two.

VINCE VAUGHN & KYLA WEBER

One can only imagine the love that former *Calgary* real estate agent Kyla Weber would write to cast starring Vince Vaughn in a good fight. Vaughn, 35, is a man of many talents. He is a director, actor, producer, and writer. He is also a father of two. He is a man of many talents. He is a director, actor, producer, and writer. He is also a father of two.



MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL & PETER SARGAARD

Who knew what attracted actors Maggie Gyllenhaal and Peter Sarsgaard to each other? Perhaps it's the vocal-rich environment of their vocations. Just saying all those a's and o's (and sometimes p's) is good for the soul. The long-time couple announced their engagement, in 2006. They were married in May.



DAVID HYDE PIERCE & BRIAN MARKOVIC

David Hyde Pierce, who played the host of *Frasier*, announced this spring he was married to long-time partner Brian Markovic. The couple, who have been together since 1994, were married in May. They are a man of many talents. He is a director, actor, producer, and writer. He is also a father of two.

SALMA HAYEK & SOME RICH GUY

His name is Francisco Hernan Pina. He is a man of many talents. He is a director, actor, producer, and writer. He is also a father of two. He is a man of many talents. He is a director, actor, producer, and writer. He is also a father of two.

HEIDI KLUM & SEAL

How does it go? The first wedding anniversary in paper, the second, cotton, the third, leather. For supermodel Heidi Klum and singer Seal, the fourth is ivory. The couple have made a sweet practice of renewing their vows in Mexico every anniversary. This year the couple to the beach for a "wedding party" in Malibu. They arrived in a limo, and Seal wore a tuxedo and Heidi wore a wedding dress. The couple were married in May.

ROBERT REDFORD & SHIRLEY SZABO

The *Backdraft* star, now 71, got engaged to long-time love Shirley Szabo, 51, last March. They were married in May. They are a man of many talents. He is a director, actor, producer, and writer. He is also a father of two.

PRINCESS VICTORIA & DANIEL WESTLING

Crown Princess Victoria, the 31-year-old heir to the Swedish throne, will marry her former personal trainer Daniel Westling next June. In May, Westling received an early wedding present from the *Calvin Klein* line. The couple are a man of many talents. He is a director, actor, producer, and writer. He is also a father of two.

A IS FOR ATLAS

Most parents opt for baby names that won't get their kids teased off the playground, which explains why Ava tops the girls' list in *Class*, while Ethan is No. 1 for boys, according to *Infant's Parent*. And, celebs' kids are often named after the kind of mom or dad—Natalie Portman, for example, who has the last name Newman, that is, the son of a star and a mom.

THE ANCIENTS

Adam: Actor Adam Sandler
Alfred: Actor Alfred Hitchcock
Anna: Actress Anna Friel
Benjamin: Actor Benjamin Bratt
Charles: Actor Charles Durning
David: Actor David Duchovny
Frank: Actor Frank Stallone
George: Actor George Clooney
Harold: Actor Harold Lloyd
Henry: Actor Henry Cavill
John: Actor John Travolta
Joseph: Actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt
Lucas: Actor Lucas Till
Michael: Actor Michael Fassbender
Robert: Actor Robert Pattinson
Thomas: Actor Thomas Haden Church
William: Actor William B. Davis

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Adam: Actor Adam Sandler
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Joseph: Actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt
Lucas: Actor Lucas Till
Michael: Actor Michael Fassbender
Robert: Actor Robert Pattinson
Thomas: Actor Thomas Haden Church
William: Actor William B. Davis

GEOGRAPHY

Alabama: Actress Alabama
Arizona: Actress Arizona
California: Actress California
Florida: Actress Florida
Georgia: Actress Georgia
Illinois: Actress Illinois
Indiana: Actress Indiana
Iowa: Actress Iowa
Kansas: Actress Kansas
Michigan: Actress Michigan
Minnesota: Actress Minnesota
Mississippi: Actress Mississippi
Missouri: Actress Missouri
Montana: Actress Montana
Nebraska: Actress Nebraska
Nevada: Actress Nevada
New York: Actress New York
North Carolina: Actress North Carolina
Ohio: Actress Ohio
Oklahoma: Actress Oklahoma
Oregon: Actress Oregon
Pennsylvania: Actress Pennsylvania
Rhode Island: Actress Rhode Island
Texas: Actress Texas
Vermont: Actress Vermont
Virginia: Actress Virginia
Washington: Actress Washington
West Virginia: Actress West Virginia
Wisconsin: Actress Wisconsin
Wyoming: Actress Wyoming

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BREAKUPS



May 27 Bob Hope's widow, Deborah, celebrates her 100th with dog Tora in L.A.

FAMILY ALBUM

Celebrating big birthdays and little holidays, victories and time together



May 2 Michael Ignatieff speaks with Zsuzsanna, the business leader in Vancouver



April 11 Stephen Harper and son Ben watch a hockey game between the Edmonton Oilers and Calgary Flames in Calgary



March 28 Madonna takes daughter Lourdes to see Percy, where she later adopted, in Miami



Feb. 14 Tim, Keri, Sam and Connor Croft pose with Cinderella and Minnie Mouse in Disneyland, Calif.



March 11 Hugh Jackman gives daughter Ava an airplane ride in New York City



Feb. 25 Pete Dinklage takes son Luc and girlfriend, When Scott to visit the Getty Museum in L.A.



June 12: Colin Donnell and son, Ford-Charles, during a National Assembly ceremony in which her husband, Ron, was inducted into the Order of Quebec



June 2: Jerry and Jessica Seinfeld, with their children Shaggy, Julian and Sasha in New York City's Central Park



July 7: Prince Michael II and Michael Jackson Jr. at their father's funeral service in L.A.



June 7: Sean 'Diddy' Combs and son Justin at an NBA Finals game in L.A.



May 16: Cindy McCain hugs son John McCain IV as he graduates from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.



June 5: Reality TV star Kelly Clarkson takes her five-year-old sextuplets to the beach in North Carolina



FEUDS

TOM SPELLING VS. CANDY SPELLING

Tommy Spelling thinks her daughter, Tina, stole his life more than any other. But Mrs. Spelling said in her book, *Surviving Candyland*, that she already hated him as a teen, so Candy struck back, declaring that Tom hasn't allowed her to see her now granddaughter (she said her dad Tom's ingratitude and refusal to return calls was responsible for "killing" her). Tina, a story even *Aunt Spelling*, who died in 2006 at age 83, might have thought too far-fetched to put on the net.

MULRONEY TORRES VS. HARPER TORRES

Talk shows and national family Members of the Harper government must tell the press that Mulroney was "no longer a member of the Conservative party" (it may have been useful, thinking on the part of Harper officials). But a recent poll had Harper ranking ahead of Mulroney on the list of most Canadian PMs since 1968. So maybe Mulroney could be forgiven about Harper giving him a bad name.

JULIE MYERSON VS. JACK MYERSON

Julie Myerson's book *The Lost Child* was to be about the life of a girl who died in 1918. But she also wrote in it that she killed her teenage son, like out of the house because he was "addicted to cannabis." When advance excerpts were published, Jack said his mother had "berated" him, and that he only started smoking pot to escape his parents' fighting. In response to all this family trauma, the publisher moved up the book's release date. Nine months earlier could still be, but marijuana and berated were too.

WHITNEY HOUSTON VS. BARBARA HOUSTON

When Whitney lost her father in 2003, she got his \$100-million life insurance policy to console her. But his stepson, Barbara, said her, claiming some of that money was to pay off all the mortgage on her dad's condo. Whitney filed a lawsuit, saying the condo was bought with money she lost her father, and Barbara owes her money. It seems Whitney's TV turn as the darty godmother in *Crashville* taught her not to be afraid of indignation.

ANTHONY MARSHALL VS. PHILIP MARSHALL

Anthony Marshall, the heir of mega-rich American socialite Brooke Astor, is on trial for allegedly embezzling his own money and throwing it all around in Moscow, while making extra millions by selling private jets from his apartment. To be fair, his wife left an Episcopal priest for him, and she didn't do that just to wind up with a poor man. The person who blew the whistle on Marshall's alleged activities was his son, Philip, who didn't appreciate being deprived of the money his grandmother was to leave him. So the good guy in this scenario could be the guy who watched on his own father.

OCTO-MOM VS. OCTO-MOM

Nadja Suleman doesn't like being displaced in the world's most famous mom. After the funeral service of Jon and Kate Gosselin became news, the went to *Realer* (Oscar with a belated response to some things Kate had said about her. "It's really annoying" is like my mother," Suleman, who plans to sue in a reality show, and her real mom needs to "stop judging me for attention." But she has a charitable side: she says Kate's behavior is typical of "people who are less educated." Finally, someone the Octo-mom can look down on. **B**

—Jennifer Wiseman



Fernando Lago (from left), Guy Lafleur, Larry King, Tina Turner, Richard Parsons

DADDY DEAREST

With the law-breaking and lying, the cheating and love children, this breed of papas put their very own spin on parenthood

I'm gonna raise him Larry King Jr.," the talk show host said in May. "Then I can head again." Until 15 years ago, when Kays, who was dying of lung cancer, called her on to tell him about their son, and they did not. Nothing but a live TV date to really catch up, though.

THIS TIME, NO RAILOUT

Not a mind the financial unit, Richard Parsons, the chairman of beleaguered Citigroup, has got himself problems to figure out. The married father of three had a love child last August with model-philanthropist model Bella Cooper. Parsons is touted as an "executive" leader of Cooper's foundation, which also focuses on Liberia, and he was a keynote speaker at its gala in October 2007. Given Parsons' wealth—the made more than \$500 million last year—this child should get plenty of charity from daddy.

THE REAL SLUNDODS

Over, schmover? When *Slammy* Magazine meets Barbara A.

and Ashraf Abdel Mohamed (local newsman from Hollywood to the clams of Memphis, their fathers were hardly star-struck. A's dad, Rafiq Qureshi, allegedly spent \$100,000 on a flight to Paris as a thank you for the *Post*. East (Qureshi was not) Israeli father, Mohamed (not), stayed and looked his son for being too good to be true, and he passed away for peacefully. He later apologized, but by then both fathers had achieved their own notoriety as "scoundrels."

FATHER, FORGIVE HIM

When Fernando Lago, generalist of Paraguay, appeared on national TV in April, his address could have been torn from the script of a steamy Latin soap opera. The politician, who was an ordained Catholic bishop until last year, admitted to fathering a son while he was out on the Church. Since then, two other women have alleged that Lago, 55, is their child's papa too. "Father Lago" ordered. **B**

—Cathy Galt

WALKING ON THIN ICE

Call it the thinnest ice in magazine journalism: *Madam* legend Guy Lafleur was found guilty in May of lying to a judge about his son's whereabouts while he was under a court-ordered curfew. For covering up his son's late-night hotel trysts, Lafleur's conviction broke the U.S. was fined \$100,000, and received a one-year suspended sentence. His lawyer says Lafleur, who is appealing the conviction, said this out of court for son "ough love might have done them both some good."

since Henry has said: our kids in eight years, each with a different mother. With his football career gone faster due to injuries, Henry says he can't afford the \$800,000 an annual child support the moms are collectively seeking. That he pleaded guilty in April to cocaine trafficking and faces 10 years to life in prison makes things worse. Then again, at least he won't father any more kids for a while.

HE'S ONE SPECIAL GUEST

While promoting his new memoir, broadcaster Larry King, 75, invited a son—whom he didn't know for the first 13 years of his life—onto his TV show. Larry King Jr., formerly an *Arrest* director, was concerned during a brief reunion between King and a woman named Annette Kays. "She told me it's a boy,"

WHAT A FUMBLE

When former Denver Broncos running back Travis Henry found out he was having a child for the first time, he was "like," "What? I'm going to be a dad?" he says. That confusion has been, so doubt, uttered several times more.

GETTY IMAGES



GEORGE W. BUSH

AMY WINEHOUSE

CONAN O'BRIEN

MOVING IN

The real estate market may be in flux, but that doesn't mean families everywhere aren't trading up, and down

GEORGE W. BUNGALOW

After eight years in the White House, the former U.S. president is the proud owner of a brown house. George and Laura (and a few Secret Service agents) are the newest additions to Potomac Hollow, an upscale Dallas neighborhood where the Bushes bought a British, ranch-style bungalow for \$153 million. It's the perfect, peaceful place for W to write his memoirs—if a publisher ever decides to buy them.

CORAN THE CALIFORNIAN

For Coran O'Brien, replacing Jay Leno as host of *The Tonight Show* meant more than moving studios. It also meant moving his wife and two children from New York to Los Angeles—a \$3.95 million transaction complete with a pool, spa, six fireplaces and a 3,500-bottle wine

room. Andy Richter does not live in the guest house.

CELL SWEET CELL

Seven years after being detained in Toronto on a "security certificate," Mohamed Zelin Mahabub was finally granted bail. But the Egyptian al Qaeda suspect soon discovered that the coziness of his release—including 24-hour "eyes on" surveillance—were far worse than being locked away. Federal agents soon followed him into a hospital room where his wife was having a miscarriage. In March, Mahabub begged a judge to ship him back to a prison cell. He obliged.

IN THE DOGHOUSE

Speaking of jail, Michael Vick reentered lives in one. The former NFL quarterback was granted house arrest after spending 18

months behind bars for his role in a bloody dog-fighting ring. Vick will serve the last leg of his sentence at home in Virginia—not in Atlanta, where his mansion is on the auction block.

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

A violent dispute over land rights in the Amazon rainforest has been settled peacefully. Brazil's Supreme Court ruled that 30,000 natives who lay claim to the sprawling Raposa Serra do Sol reservation—all 1.7 million hectares—will be allowed to stay, despite the opposition of rice farmers who also walk the land.

HOUSE FOR WINEHOUSE

British singing war Amy Winehouse, who smoked and smoked her way to fame, has found solace in suburbia. To the delight of her parents, the 25-year-old

has purchased a \$2.7-million pad in a gated community not far from where she grew up. The new digs seem to be working. Daily updates from the papers say Winehouse no longer looks as if her "face is literally falling off."

HOME IS WHERE THE TOMATOES ARE

The earthquake that rocked the ancient Italian city of L'Aquila forced thousands of people into a different kind of city—a city of tents. The temporary camps see heavily homeless, but victims and volunteers are trying to make life as "normal" as possible. Some of the makeshift shacks house schools and churches. And, of course, tomato plants.

HOUSE THAT SHE BUILT

The New York Times has a new stratum, and no expense was spared (marble bars and membership-only restaurants are just some of the amenities) that family-friendly is certainly not. A pair of lower-level seats goes for \$512,100—and that's after the team slaved away. —Michael Freedland

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AGENTS/STYLISTS

MOVING OUT

Mansions and castles are up for grabs. Blame it on bad finances, bad arguments and, occasionally, bad blood

GRINING/OFF THE EDGE

Did you hear the one about the Russian guy who downed three bottles of vodka, jumped off his fifth-floor balcony, and somehow survived with only minor cuts and bruises? His horrified wife was so infuriatingly calm while she called an ambulance—that he jumped again. Amazingly, Alexei Romanov is still around to tell his story. "When I came back up and I heard my wife screaming angrily at me, I thought it was best if I left the room again—out of the window."

he told a German magazine. No word yet on how many British politicians attended the open house.

REPO MAN RECORD

The recession has not been kind to David Carver, rather. Defeat the mortgage, the high rolling Austrian investor purchased a \$100-million home in London, and then dropped another \$10 million in renovations. But when Carver's financial forecast belly up, bankruptcy built around him. It was the largest repossession in English history.

LEAVING SWAT VALLEY

A prolonged clash between Taliban militants and the Pakistan army has left millions of civilian refugees and hungry. The bulk of the fighting has occurred in the infamous Swat Valley, which was captured by army forces two years ago. How desperate is Pakistan to regain control of the battle-torn region? Refugees are peris-

cuted by the Taliban are being offered a chance for respite—as police officers.

FREEKIDNAP

Now split from his wife of 25 years, Mel Gibson is trying to unload his Tudor-style mansion in Connecticut. It hasn't been easy. At brainstorming in the property is 15 bedrooms, 17 bathrooms, and a separate log cabin (the *Braveheart* writer just can't find a buyer. Mel reportedly did find a new girlfriend, though).

YOU GOTTA LEAVE

Victoria Gots—daughter of the late New York media boss, John Gotti—is on the brink of losing her Long Island mansion, all because her husband took on a loan she didn't know about. The author carried away TV star is fighting her owner in court, hoping that her father's knack for beating the system (reporters dubbed him "The Teflon Don") runs in the family.

NO IGLOOS ALLOWED

A Russian man who built a snow fort in the backyard of his condo was ordered to tear it down because the ice structure posed a fire hazard. Bruce Lawson's igloo was a bit with neighborhood kids, but the electrical cord he ran on to it wasn't popular with the property management firm. The Canadian flaggered on top of the fort wasn't enough to change their minds. Neither was his defense that snow doesn't burn.

CAVELEERS

Think the igloo decision was a tough break? Try this in Britain: a self-proclaimed "eco-warrior" was evicted from his humble cave because the city said it didn't have a fire exit. Milare Patrick, who has lived in the cave for 16 years, is planning an appeal.

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Now here's a real fire hazard: a 100kg bomb hidden in a Berlin museum, discovered buried near a Berlin museum, authorities promptly evacuated the area—including a flat belonging to German Chancellor Angela Merkel. —Michael Freedland



MEL GIBSON

VICTORIA GOTTE

NICOLAS CAGE



PETER VIGGERS

MICHAEL BLOOMBERG

REMODELLING

Sprucing up the house can be as simple as a new coat of paint or rearranging the furniture. Now and then, though, there are complications

THE CHANGE BEGINS

The promise of "change" propelled Barack Obama into the White House, and if nothing else, the new U.S. President has managed to change one thing: the location of the roach. On Feb. 3, just before an Oval Office meeting about the economic recovery plan, Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas helped Obama slide a roach to another part of the room. A fresh perspective never hurts.

ROYAL MESS

Maybe Obama has good reason not to stress the hand help. At Buckingham Palace, a hapless footman failed an expensive new carpet when he accidentally applied a wad of toilet and coffee. The clumsy servant was on duty in the Queen's Gallery, a rare privilege that—so the diagnosis of the royal—had been re-expended just two days earlier.

HITTING THE ROOF

A British teenager with way too much time on his hands (and a can of white paint) drew a 30-ft roach on the roof of his parents' house. Roy Moore was supposed after watching a television program about Google Earth, the website that was overhead and left imagery to reveal in the people's homes. The rooftop phallus was there for more than a year before being spotted by a helicopter pilot.

A BIT TO THE LEFT

Size certainly matters in Vancouver. A family living in one of the city's most historic neighborhoods was ordered to move their entire garage 20 cm to the west (yes, 20 cm) because they had a parking space during demolition. The slight shift cost the family \$4,000—in \$300 per cent.

MATORAL DIGGS

Nobody can accuse Michael Bloomberg of thinking small. The mayor of New York City has faded over millions of dollars to buy out his next-door neighbors and expand his first-rate townhouse to more than 12,000 sq ft. Internet photos have never been released, but press reports described the mansion being "like Louis XIV on hallucinogens."

THAT'S NOT MINK

Call it a case of remodeling the books. Michael Fuld—former in-charge of Lehman Bros. when the investment bank collapsed—will be working his hands to the bone to pay for a \$100 million home from being sold. The courts rule against Fuld in a series of high-profile lawsuits. To be fair, he wasn't so creative at work.

CRYING FOWL

Peter Viggers certainly wasn't the only British lawmaker to spruce up his home on the taxpayer dime (one fellow MP was reimbursed for most dining). But his expense claims exploded were especially wild. The former cabinet minister tried to charge the public purse \$1,125 for a "duck house" on his private lake.

COYOTES IN MOTION

In his quest for NHL hockey in Hershey, Pa., Blackberry billionaire Jim Balsillie is promising major renovations to old Coppe Coliseum. The \$100 million facility would include an arena-style lobby, luxury boxes, and new exterior. Unlike in Phoenix, the revamped arena would also have occupied seats.

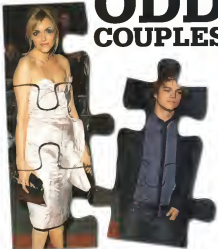
—Michael Pruszelts

WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Money makes the world go round. It can also break our hearts, win us karma (good or bad) and make some of us not just a little bit crazy



ODD COUPLES



SOPHIE DAHL & JAMIE CULLUM

The *sexiest* model and the five-foot-four-inch singer struggled off the double-minded headline: "How scrawny are heights?" and "Is she a mother?"—and got engaged in May. As Dahl put it, very wisely, "What's nice is that we happen to be two people who fell madly in love and will probably produce fairly average-sized children."

NATHALIE NORMAN-DEAD & FRANÇOIS BONHIAZ

She's Quebec's deputy premier, he's an opposition MNA. They may be political enemies in the national assembly, but in private

they are just two people trying to build a relationship while, at the same time, avoiding major political and ethical landmines. These chances but beware: inter-party romances tend to explode. Just ask Tony Blair, Mackay and Liberal Ontario Bronckos.



UN & BATTLESTAR GALACTICA

New TV series could take part in adoration in the United Nations as "terrorism, human rights and reconstruction and dialogue

among civilizations and faiths." But the UN invited the cast and crew of the brooding sci-fi show *Battlestar Galactica* to participate. While some diplomats took the debate seriously, others may have just wished that sequester Cylon No. 6 was there to her red dress.

RAFAEL CEREÑO & 'JUST SAY NO'

After his April arrest, Rafael Cereño, the leader of the rebels "The Family" drug cartel, boasted to Mexican police that he'd trained thousands of gang members in ethics and personal hygiene. The objective of the courses was for students to "avoid drugs, hard drinking

and maintain family unity." Getting everyone else hooked? That's just business.



MICHAËLLE JEAN & ARCTIC SEAL

Just dropped when the elegant urbanite lands down in a rustic Inuit gymnasium, took a traditional tea and dined a dead seal. Determined to show solidarity with Aboriginal hunters, the GG went a step further and asked, "Could I try the heart?"



MICKY ROURKE & EUGENIA VOLODINA

He didn't win the Oscar for *The Wrestler*, but with his career now on a roll, Mickey Rourke, 56, returned to an old habit: picking up models. In May he was playing record hockey with Eugenia Volodina, 25, a Victoria's Secret girl. The rugged and the Russian have been seen together since, though what they have in common, other than an outrageous sense of style, remains a mystery.



OFRA HAREL & KFC

She has ruled against factory farming, so why couldn't Harel be a when the Queen of Daytime promoted fast KFC meal one point. Much of the Queen's chicken comes from a supplier denounced for heinous bird-inhumane conditions. Oprah was coping with that bad publicity when the campaign ran out, so the fast-fooder's hearts and stomachs in a single move. —Patricia Trefle



JEWELLERY belonging to the Queen (top and to the left) and Michelle Obama (bottom and to the right)

BROOCH-OFF

As the first ladies of lapel jewellery, Elizabeth II and Michelle Obama have raised the old-fashioned brooch to new heights

The parade of Queen Elizabeth II and Michelle Obama with their arms around each other during the Obama's jubilee visit in April told the world that the royal family's friendship had been born. So it was no surprise that Michelle and her gals popped by the palace for a visit in June. There are 30 years and a cultural chasm

separating the two, yet they have much in common: the devotion of a widowed mother, husband's garden, the sudden coup to power. And then there's the jewelry. Both can wear bold necklaces and even chokers; both women both love pearls. And both wear brooches. Lots and lots of brooches. The Queen's

stepped in history. There's the Cullum heart brooch with the 18-carat diamond and the work for her last Christmas address, and the three-gemstone brooches made for Queen Victoria. There are the presents from governments, family and even subjects. In 1942, a Canadian woman, Joan Williamson, gave her a 34.5-carat

pink diamond as a wedding gift. Now it's the centerpiece of the Queen's brooch. The Queen's when the Queen first visited London. Michelle Obama, on the other hand, favors colonial costume brooches, often featuring several on an outfit. One of her favorites is a grey Maltese pearl cluster brooch. For the inauguration she teamed into diamond territory with a Victorian pearl with pin brought from Canadian jeweler Carole Thibault. It may not have had real diamonds like the Queen's, but because Michelle won't, it's now priceless. —Patricia Trefle



PRIYANKA Gandhi (clockwise from left) with her mother, Sonia Gandhi, in 1999. (Clockwise from left) Kim Jong Un, Arlo, and Ricki Spencer. (Clockwise from left) Ricki Spencer, Arlo, and Kim Jong Un.



NEXT GENERATION

RAHUL AND PRIYANKA GANDHI

After the May elections in India, Indian National Congress leader Sonia Gandhi joined her husband, Rahul, 36, and daughter Priyanka, 17, with the party's revival. Rahul, like his mother, is one of the country's most eligible bachelors—hand-picked candidates from the party's youth wing, of which he is a leader. His mother—the Italian-born wife of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, assassinated in 1991—still had to be grooming him to be PM.

BRISTOL PALIN

In February she'll turn 19—old enough to be on the cover of the *Rolling Stone* magazine. Teller, in doing so, he followed in the foot-

steps of her mother, former model Victoria Lockwood. (Named *Rolling Stone*'s "girl of the year" in 1999.) The daughter of Denny's brother, Charles Earl Spencer, Kelly grew up in Cape Town, South Africa, shunned from the media glare. She dates a warfarer named Jasper and spends her free time on the beach or on safari. She says she wouldn't have copied grunge up in England. "Our way of life is so much more relaxed," she said.

RICKI SPENCER

Princess Di's niece, 60-year-old Ricki Spencer, outgilded herself to fame in April when she appeared on the cover of the *Rolling Stone* magazine. Teller, in doing so, he followed in the foot-

steps of her mother, former model Victoria Lockwood. (Named *Rolling Stone*'s "girl of the year" in 1999.) The daughter of Denny's brother, Charles Earl Spencer, Kelly grew up in Cape Town, South Africa, shunned from the media glare. She dates a warfarer named Jasper and spends her free time on the beach or on safari. She says she wouldn't have copied grunge up in England. "Our way of life is so much more relaxed," she said.

ARLO WEINER

Mad Men, the '60s-themed TV series created by Matthew Weiner, is an increasingly curious blend of real and surreal. Weiner, in doing so, he followed in the foot-

steps of her mother, former model Victoria Lockwood. (Named *Rolling Stone*'s "girl of the year" in 1999.) The daughter of Denny's brother, Charles Earl Spencer, Kelly grew up in Cape Town, South Africa, shunned from the media glare. She dates a warfarer named Jasper and spends her free time on the beach or on safari. She says she wouldn't have copied grunge up in England. "Our way of life is so much more relaxed," she said.

KIM JONG UN

Only him and his parents are known about the young prince of North Korea's dictator Kim Jong Il, 36, is supposed to be the country's next leader, according to South Korean media reports that he was born in either 1981 or early 1984. His father is the spitting image of his

father, and that he was named on by his Japanese mother, the late Kim Young Hee, who reportedly called him her "Morning Star King." Educated in Switzerland, Kim Jong Un is said to enjoy Western popular culture like his old man, particularly NBA basketball. He also likes to ski.

HRP-4C

Scenes in Japan-attended movie "Cybernetic Warrior" in March, a five-foot-two woman who can walk, talk, blink and move like a real person. HRP-4C, who has 30 joints in her body and rights in her face, can sense her eyes and mouth to express surprise and anger. Dressed in a black and silver space suit, she already hit the runway in a Tokyo fashion show, but her walk was deemed

clunky and inelegant. "People in the industry told us she was short and had a rather ordinary figure," said Hiroshi Hirakawa, one of the developers. She is nevertheless priced at \$207,000.

STAR TREK

With his long-awaited Star Trek prequel, released in May, director J.J. Abrams managed to do what no man has done before: level a host of bona fide sci-fi sagas to the eerily timely franchise. Thanks to a cast of astute young actors—including Chris Pine as a James Deakings Captain Kirk and Zachary Quinto as a subtly off-kilter Spock—the film has already grossed \$357.7 million worldwide. A sequel to the prequel is already underway.

ERIC YAM

In May, winner of NASA's National Space Settlement Competition, in which students from around the world compete to design a space colony, chose Canada's Eric Yam, 17, as the winner. Yam, a student at Northern Secondary School in Toronto, designed a space colony named "Aurora"—named for the Egyptian god of the sun and the sun. Yam's design would hold 10,000 people, all of whom would be subject to a Canadian-style passport and immigration system. Preferred consideration, Yam deemed, would go to well-researched applicants who speak one of Canada's official languages: English, Mandarin and Hindi.

NATHANIEL MICHOLOSON

Even after Harold Nicholson, a former CIA operations officer, was imprisoned in 1997 for spying for a Russian intelligence agency, he spent out to come. Instead, operating from his prison cell, he recruited Russian Nationalist, 24, to

pass secrets to Russia and collect US\$1,000 in payments owed to him for past activities from Russian agents in Peru, Mexico and Cyprus. In January, both father and son were released. According to court documents, Nicholson himself is in contact with his other son, Jeremiah, an air force sergeant with "intelligence" and a Russian wife, may also "hold some future value" as a spy.

BABY BELUGA

In June, Aurora, a 20-year-old baby, while who lives at the Vancouver Aquarium, gave birth to a healthy 5.8 in calf. She said Aurora—whose daughter, Ella, 11, will graduate in 2011. I, also live at the aquarium—named calm throughout the 13-hour birthing process. Visitors and volunteers observed as the baby emerged. "It's incredible—usually one of the most beautiful and peaceful things I've been able to see," said one observer. ■

—Laurie George

FAMILY REUNION

Lindsay Lohan was caught on tape banging on the door of her on-again-off-again lover Sam Worthington, turning up at his house and begging her to let her in. A few days later they were spotted dining together, so that technique must work for reuniting a real couple.

Break-ups are fine. Moore was seen talking and laughing together at the high school graduation of her daughter last, leading observers to pronounce them Hollywood's happiest divorce couple. Unless he was laughing at those embarrassing photos of her. As for his, he's posted on Twitter.

Wine allows for confidence. As the girls get divorced and then promptly remarried their ex-coaches. The wine is sold there for them, allowing for claims as to a loophole giving early pensions to divorced employees. One point, Cindy Smith, told ABC they just decided to be happy with the family we have. Not to mention the big money.

As for the second time in three years, Sean Penn and Robin Wright held for divorce, and for the second time decided to stay married. That's why they're the Prince and Princess of the Oscars.

When Rolling Stones' guitarist Ronnie Wood divorced his wife for someone younger, it caused friction with his daughter Leah, who is 10 years older than his new girlfriend, a Welsh blond. But Leah, as the mother and father, suffered and met her lunch at a London seafood restaurant.

Photo: J. Weissman

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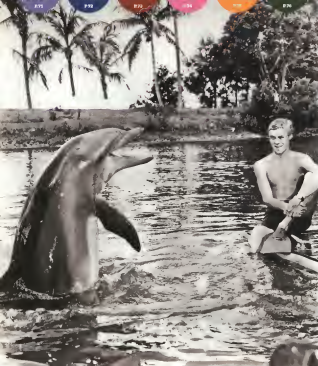
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Killing Flipper

As much thriller as documentary, 'The Cove' blows the lid off Japan's horrific dolphin fishery by BRIAN D. JOHNSON

film

The dolphin's smile, says Richard O'Barry, is "nature's greatest deception." He should know. During the 1960s, O'Barry captured and trained dolphins, including the five that played Flipper in the TV series of the same name—which did more than anything to popularize the notion that marine mammals are happy to perform tricks in captivity. O'Barry became the world's most famous dolphin trainer, earning enough from Flipper to buy a new Porsche each season. But his growing sense that the show's dolphins were severely stressed was confirmed one day when Kathy, the dolphin that played Flipper most of the time, died in his arms. As O'Barry explained in a *Madison* interview, dolphins are not aquatic breathers, and Kathy "committed suicide by not taking her next breath."

In death, the vet still ailing. The next day, O'Barry searched for releasing dolphins from Miami's beachfront. And he has dedicated the rest of his life to campaigning against the multi-billion dollar dolphin captivity industry. "I spent 10 years trying to build that industry up," he says, "and 35 years trying to tear it down."

Finally, O'Barry is about to get the world's attention. His efforts have resulted in an eye-opening documentary called *The Cove*, which blows the lid off the five little secret behind dolphin shows. That doesn't stop those who in Japan, a remote town in Japan, where dolphins are captured for export to aquariums around the world. Thousands of others are slaughtered for their flesh, a mercury-laden meat that was fed to Japanese school children as part of a free but compulsory health program, kids were forced to clean their plates.

Since its premiere at Sundance in January,



FLIPPER IT SMILES SMILE (ABOVE) dolphins killing turns water near Tokyo red with blood

The Cove has been getting momentum, making up prizes at film festivals after another, including audience awards for most popular film at both Sundance and Toronto's Hot Docs. The movie, which opens in Canada on Aug. 2, seems on track to be an Oscar season—Independent Spirit—for marine mammal. And the filmmakers are hoping that the scandal is proven to outlaw the Japanese government into revoking its hard-line support of whaling and dolphin fishing, a policy they've opposed by a media blitz and building criticism of the industry.

The *Cove* also represents a potent new prototype in the evolution of the doc: documentary as a series of light pop journalism and pop entertainment. It's being marketed as a thriller, an *Inside* style experience about a hard-picked squad on a special ops mis-

sion to penetrate a secret hideout of environmental horror. Activists have been protesting the Taiji dolphin slaughter for years, filming and exposing giant catch fishermen who try to stop them from photographing the bay where the dolphins are trapped after boats drive them from their migration routes. But until now, no one had been able to document the cove around the corner where the slaughter takes place—a natural fortress surrounded by steep cliffs on three sides, and protected by high gates with barbed wire and razor ribbons.

With a US\$1-million budget financed by Jim Clark, the creator of Netscape, director Loree Sehayon assembled a *Mission Impossible* team that drew on talents ranging from Hollywood to the military. Canadian air force veteran Jason Hirsch has devised sophisticated unmanned drones, including a mini-aerial robot helicopter, to shoot aerial footage of the slaughter. Charles Hershenson, an advertising publicist and documenter who worked on the *Pinco* of the *Caribbean* movies, was in charge of "clandestine operations." He obtained military-grade thermal cameras to monitor the movement of the guards in the dark. Model makers in George Lucas's special effects studio, Industrial Light and Magic, created false robot designed to hide HD cameras in the cliffs. And two bondsmen, including world-record holder Mandy Patinkin, swam underwater cameras and hydrophones onto the depths of the cove to shoot the slaughter from below.

As this small army descends on Taiji, they engage in a cloak-and-dagger dance with the police. Every time the ops members make a move, they're followed. "We had the local cops, the police had five hotel rooms," says Sehayon. "Office we had several cars following us at the same time. We would switch cars, and use distraction techniques to draw guards out of the cove. We would go out in a decoy van to shoot ripples and raise fires with cops on our tail." Although the doc repeatedly broke the law, for months they eluded authorities. But now, says the director, "there are warrants out for our arrest for conspiracy to obstruct justice."

What's important about the film is that the sleek language of the covert operation made up narrative a visual narrative, a way to play that way. The military thermal cameras, for instance, were meant to show surveillance,

THE CHALLENGE in bringing justice to New York is locating the 'most important ingredient'—credible, forthright witnesses.

CLARK GABLE and Vivien Leigh in *Gone with the Wind* (1939), the last base for older films is shrinking as restoration costs soar

Say goodbye to big screen classics

Not many great old movies are being released on DVD now. It's partly Joan Collins' fault.

BY JAIME J. WEINMAN • Though DVD sales are down, ancient movies are still piling up on DVD shelves. But for anything made earlier, collectors may be out of luck. Most of the studios have increased their schedule of classic movies on DVD to almost nothing. 20th Century Fox recently eliminated its Classics website after canceling plans for several classic titles like *The Godfather* and *Star Wars*. Even the prestigious Criterion Collection has cut back the number of classic foreign movies it releases, and brought out a much delayed current film, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, to make extra money. George Pelecanos, a senior vice president at Warner Home Video (which still has some classic scheduled), says that "most of the studios have pretty much said 'Screw it, we're out of here, we're not going to do this.'"

Even before the recession, studios had to cut back due to the closing of many retail chains, that used to stock their products. Pelecanos says, "If the economy of the world had not deteriorated, our release schedule would still be less than it is." That older movies are particularly vulnerable because the cost of restoration is growing, and their loss is irreplaceable. It used to be that TV headcoating built a market for old movies. Now, though, they're being bought by a niche figure after the fact, thanks to TV. But today, the only studio that shows old films is Warner Classic Movies. And DVDs can't all be based on the perishing power of TCM viewers alone.

Because classics are a niche market, they were the first to go when demand hit. Like *Gold Digger* and *Best Boy*, decided which movie they wouldn't like, Pelecanos says that many classic short buyers "think we did a clear movie at *The Mirror of the Ladies*" and

though the high definition DVD format, like Ray, is seen by some observers as a possible savior of home videos, it actually is making things worse for classics. Warner released a few popular titles in the format (including *Casablanca*) and found that, according to Pelecanos, "classics are having a tough time as the Ray. New films do great, but people don't know how great old movies can look in this format." Warner will try again later this year with the Ray of *The Godfather* and *The Wind and North by Northwest*, but for now, the Ray is another thing to ignore as old movies off the shelves' space on stores.

It's not as if studios have simply run out of movies worth releasing. Many of the great movies of the '50s through the '70s are available on North American DVD. The *Tom McCarty's Comedy Angles of Life* starring Charles Laughton, or Douglas Sirk's *The Damned Angels with Rock Hudson*, often considered the best adaptation of a William Faulkner novel. But each decision has the same recognition that would see them appear on film Ray studios. And during the DVD boom years, some studios may have made movies worth spending lots of money to release movies that were old, but not classic. A "Joan Collins Collection" featured several movies the Disney star had made for Fox in the '50s, offering mostly mediocre films for

a high price. Pelecanos thinks that "irreplaceable releases" contributed to the collapse of the market such as "classics and old movies to return the product."

With sales falling these days, old movies may need to find a home online. Warner Brothers recently unveiled the "Warner Archive," an internet catalogue allowing U.S. movie fans (in Canada, yes) to order home on demand DVDs of classic movies starring the likes of Clark Gable, Joan Crawford and Cary Grant. The discs and transfers are not always up to the highest standards, but they're a significant first step towards making the stock, like *The Shopworn Angel* and *Three Crowns*, two somewhat obscure but cult director Frank Borzage and Abraham Polonsky movie star Margaret Sullivan.

If this idea is embraced by other studios, classic movie releases would be as good as lost, as they used to be. Pelecanos says that while the response to the archive "has been overwhelmingly positive," there are some caveats from fans who have been turned by DVD to "watch everything online, and everything in the best possible quality." Still, most movie lovers seem like they'll be happy to get these films seen any form. The winner of the popular movie blog *Let's Stay In* approves of the archive also, because the movies are up to date to keep old films in circulation. "These movies can't live for a general audience," she says, "if they're circulating like some baseball card." ■



WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT MOON PENICILLONES

To mark the 40th anniversary of the first moon landing, Columbia TriStar has released off more than 100 films related to the Apollo 11 mission. Included in the collection was an original short film directed by Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin to demonstrate their position on the moon after landing. The circular lunar surface film is 20 in. in diameter and consists of two sheets of plastic. It is priced at \$249,000—that's \$249,000 per page.



SEAWEED SEAWEEED is full of phytonutrients and antioxidants. It can keep for decades and eat like its nutritional value if stored properly

There's beauty hiding in the weeds

Seaweed lowers cholesterol, thickens sauces, and can give you skin as soft as Johnny Depp's

BY JULIA MURKIN • On B.C.'s remote Haida Gwaii, population 300, Norwegian-born Vera Reinertsen teaches local women how to make use of washed-up seaweed for food and beauty products. Reinertsen sells locally at her soap grocery store and has a small kiosk for under \$200—growing prices when you consider that Haida leader charges \$150 an ounce for a seaweed cream called *Mahe* de la Mer worn by Kora Knapley and Johnny Depp.

"I haven't used seaweed for 10 years, just my mother," says Reinertsen, who's dressed in brown cowbells and worn boots, her long blonde hair and skin. She has a bachelor's degree in marine biology from UBC and a master of science from Newsworld University of Bergen.

For her retail products, Reinertsen dries the seaweed and grinds it into preparations for cellular repair and facial masks, her long blonde hair and skin. She has a bachelor's degree in marine biology from UBC and a master of science from Newsworld University of Bergen.

To demonstrate, Reinertsen plunges her arm into a plastic bucket and pulls out a soft, rubbery piece of seaweed and shakes it over. She passes it around to the women who've each paid \$25 for their first hour hands on field trip. The group is gathered on a wooden pier. The sea is grey and low tide. The old wooden pier is brought home when the tide is in. The women stand in the water and are unthinkingly shocked by how sweet the seaweed tastes. The other women sit on a wooden dock and look on in the white sand, taking notes as Reinertsen gives the ladies a lesson on this bumpy, rubbery piece.

Cholesterol-lowering properties, she says, are mostly known as "Turkish towel" oil, or the Haida's call it, "nature's witchcraft."

"You take a piece with you to the bath or shower and scrub with it. Once it hits the water, it starts producing carotenoids, which make a beautiful color and your skin starts to glow. It has little pigments all over it that are full of antioxidants and anti-inflammatory chemicals. I had one journalist who jerked and pulled and pulled and pulled. I said it every night for two weeks in the hot shower. I hung it up to dry in between."

Next, Reinertsen hands around a sample of one of her multi-use seaweed products that she distributes only through organic UV rays that can be used to treat cellulite. The packaged product looks like the bouquet garni for soups. She calls the product *Skin Cells* because "skin" is seaweed word, she says. "I sprinkle it on and as it falls down there's this little hole on your skin. It's the most amazing feeling and it draws out the excess seaweed. It's like a plant that once you dry it out, it won't come back to life. These guys are later life. They're adapted to drying and surviving and drying and surviving. It's still alive." To make any application as smooth, Reinertsen adds dried ground Haida-baked pure lavender. "Lavender gives the body smell."



MOST IMPROVED CHRISTINA AGUILERA

She's hung up the leather chaps from her *Dirty Harry*, and transformed into a humanitarian. Recently named spokesperson for the HumaniTrends World Hunger Relief organization, pop star Christina Aguilera was spotted this week filming a commercial for the organization. To raise awareness, she's scheduled to do a fall tour. "It's unacceptable that a child dies every six seconds somewhere around the world from hunger," she says.

When it mattered, 'the most trusted man in America' actually wasn't that trustworthy



DISCUSSION

around the world in America, at least to any person whose ambition for their local news beat is to make millions of countermeasures. But, for members of the Jerusalem Media Group to look out our most work of prevention and abolition for their David David, Crook's death served as a kind of intervention. For, if there's one thing they're more than a celebrity out down in his prime (it's), it's the opportunity for self-aid from that the gaining of a once-in-a-lifetime. The media's sense of purpose is never more out of which than when bidding farewell to some issue figure from in glory days, and one had high hopes that the tragedies for Crook's might surpass the impressive new records in visibility as by the coverage of Washington Post doctrine Ray Graham in and did very little these last two decades. In that sense, they lost out naturally to the same group. They represent the craft of a shared, universal popular culture. Jack Thirler was the biggest selling album of all time ever, Crook's newswoman was the most watched in America. Bearing dramatic and severe government control of technology, no CD and no news show will ever be the big again. And, when you think about millions of teenagers going out and buying the same sticky manipulative pop record in less than their million of grown-ups agreeing they'll all get their world view from the same source. But all together again, again? That's the way it was back in the days when ABC, CBS, NBC, the New York Times and the Washington Post functioned at a no operative monopoly.

2011: "The Most Powerful Woman in America," "The Most Powerful Woman in The World," "America's Queen," "Key's Amazing Grace," "Oh, Kae," "Sawyer's Key"

No "Why?" oddly enough, there was an element of surrealism in all this. Mis Gushken was a central figure in what the Jacksons booted right in American journal *Teen* (he's been *Teen*—watergate. Mis was it so that down to be alive. A more gipsy has passed since Ray Gushken's death, but the gipsy complacency that characterized her catalog was noticeably down from Corbelle's, which made real life Mis Gushken for an indus-

age. But he wasn't, not always. Back in 1961, he was actually younger than Jacko, a more whipper-snapper in his mid-forties. But the hole's thinning, the eyebrows are bushy, the cheeks are already powdery. He looks like he'll look off the end of his life. He's handed a piece of paper, puts on his horn-rimmed glasses, removes them, and tells America the President died at 1 p.m. Central Time.

It was so real that day: no teleprompter, no script, the newsroom backdrop was a real room with real staffers doing real work. News at 5 theme: the author reads from the prompter, but still has papers on the desk so he can do that final shuffle of the script after he says goodbye. Come to think of it, is there still a "desk"? In the meantime, BBC News introduced a "virtual studio," bigger and shinier than the real thing—a dumpy old "Win-

London—idiot, while on a rilly fantasia all more representative of the corporation's "authenticity." And yet, amidst all the corporate-generated distractions and in an age that venerates youth, at the heart of the nightly dinner theatre, viewers of "evening news" still want to find an elderly avuncular male cracking quipster or some old wisemonger thereof. For a few months, between Dan Rather's self-detachment and Katie Couric's

apparently, the CBS Evening News was guest-hosted by the septagenarian Bob Schaffer. Of? Bob came not only cheaper than Katie, he got better ratings, too. Among that huge endangered species that still try to sit a TV every evening to find out "the way it is" in between ads for incontinence pads, hope springs eternal that somewhere out there there's still a benign, uncorrupted authority figure, a "defining anchor of America's unity" (as *Director* says, *collo*: Croc hotel) "the voice that held us together in dark days" (as Larry King would).

There can never be Today's network as

ANYONE UNDER the age of 60, unless Black, is more familiar with pseudo news anchors like Jon Stewart (right) and Stephen Colbert

there are in the market. And anyone under 40 is more familiar with purely anabolic like Messrs. Stewart and Calhoun. Cordoba was [all together yet again] "The most visible man in America." How do we know? Because a 1993 poll found it to be so. Other polls say, Obama's approval rating—come and go—move up and down, are subject to seasonal fluctuations. But, taken at a time when most of the major candidates in any future recognition were mired in Watergate, this 1993 snapshot of Crockett's transcendence is apparently positive for all eternity, chiseled in granite and installed atop Mount Rushmore.

And actually he wasn't that transparent, not when it mattered. In 1968, after a flying visit to Vietnam on the wake of the Tet Offensive, Cronkite delivered an on-air editorial declaring that "we are stuck in stalemate. In fact, if you'll forgive the expression, we are stuck in a lost most basic symbol."

"Who won and who lost in the great Tet Offensive against the north? I'm not sure. The Viet Cong did not win by a knockout, but neither did we. The reflux of history may make it a draw."

But, as The "referees of history" agree U.S. and South Vietnamese forces won. Not only did the Viet Cong not "win" by a knockout; they were so shattered that they never recovered militarily, and henceforth the burden of the war fell on the North Vietnamese army. Out there on the battlefield the U.S. won, but couldn't persuade its own citizenry of the fact. Thanks, in large part, to Cronkite.

Now you might disagree with my view. But that's the point: it's a view, it's an opinion. Crockett could have presented his views and opinions on TMI as a commentator or pundit. But instead he did so with the full force of his avowed "trustworthiness." His editorial that day was delivered not as an editorialist but as "this reporter," deploying an already widely understood rhetorical tic in service of

his bear "It is increasingly clear to this reporter that the only rational way out there will be to negotiate, not to cower."

As John Paulsen, the editor of *Consequence*, put it, "Croskite, the gruffly voiced, accepted American mission, would certainly have suggested the target his money could have and would never even have considered exceeding the speed limit, despite the President Lyndon Johnson 'We've lost Croskite' and all together now, one last time) 'then I've lost Middle America.' A savvy operator inside the fediverse, DJI crashed global because the magic lantern of a moment TV Uncle Walter divided his time, as the capsule now say, between Manhattan and Martha's Vineyard. Which would make the middle of his America... Croskite, Consequence The Harpistol)

But he was "avascular" and "transwonderly," and so he provided the cover, as John Puchner put it, for the "impartial" media to post "the adversary culture." When Cronin died, it happened to be reading a rather dense Court most-wisely constitutional scholar on the ultimate reserve powers of the Crown. They're real, and you can use them—but only once.

and at huge cost. In the seventies, the John Kerr, the former governor of Die, was while his rights as free prime minister, Gerald Whitlam, but the not credit a slow recovery the reputation of the Australian monarchy from which it has never recovered. That's what Creel's "let intervention die to the media's carefully constructed self-mythology—although it took technological developments to enable the masses finally to choose of the "that's my life" media. In 1964, under Whitlam took down a president and helped lose a war. In 1984, his successor Dan Rafter, tried to do the same as Bush-rose stores through false National Guard memos. Instead, a white-powderemy and a blizzard wound up making Cray On Dan down, and out, far good. That's the way it goes. Not anymore—and good thing. 100

NUCLEON'S BESTSELLERS

COMPLETED BY: BRUNNEN

Fiction

- | | | |
|----|--|------|
| 1 | THE ANGEL'S DANCE
by Carlos Ruiz Zafón | 1.04 |
| 2 | SACRED HEARTS
by Sarah Bunting | 1.01 |
| 3 | THE CHILDREN'S BOOK
by A.S. Byatt | 0.94 |
| 4 | HOTCHWILKES
by Kyoiko Masuro | 4.00 |
| 5 | MY FATHER'S TEARS
by John Updike | 7.00 |
| 6 | DECEMBER 8
by Colin Telford | 0.81 |
| 7 | FINGER LICKIN' FIFTEEN
by Janet Eberhardt | 0.81 |
| 8 | ASSEMBLE
by Wilbur Smith | 0.81 |
| 9 | TEA-TIME FOR THE
TRADITIONALLY BUILT
by Alexander McCall Smith | 0.81 |
| 10 | THE LITTLE STRANGER | 0.79 |

Non-fiction

- | | | |
|----|--|------|
| 1 | MY TWO WORLDS IS ABOUT TO GET A WHOLE LOT SMALLER by Jeff Labrec | 1.00 |
| 2 | OUTLIERS by Malcolm Gladwell | 4.00 |
| 3 | DEAD AND by Garth Risk Halliday | 8.00 |
| 4 | THE BOLTER by Frances Chabon | 8.00 |
| 5 | SLOW DEATH BY RUBIE DUCK by Rick Smith and Bruce Laune | 9.99 |
| 6 | THE EVOLUTION OF GOD by Robert Wright | 7.00 |
| 7 | THE CELLO SUITES by Eric Siegel | 9.99 |
| 8 | SUMMER WORLD by Bernd Heinrich | 7.00 |
| 9 | THE HOUSE OF WITTENBERG by Alexander Waugh | 8.00 |
| 10 | MACE'S LEGACY by Gerald Johnson and Kate Wang | 7.00 |

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WALTER PAUL SIEBER

1932-2009

'The madder the wrestling fans got, the more satisfied he was'

Walter Paul Sieber was born on Oct. 3, 1935, in Tacoma, a seafaring city. His father Paul, who was from Germany, worked as a painter and decorator. He used to buy a new ladder on his bicycle ride from job to job. His Rosecrans neighbor, Anne Yost, was spirited and strong-souled. The couple was an odd fit. By the time Walter was seven, they had divorced. Walter lived with Anna until his early teens, and then joined his father in nearby Highland March on a farm Paul had bought after he and Anna parted. Each of his parents remained.

Walter's strong body was fit for farming, but he preferred night life. He spent hours at the YMCA, with a crowd of bulling youngsters. He could bench press 405 lb., more than the quarter tonne world record. Red Garner, a local wrestling promoter, divined Walter's future in the ring, and trained him. At 17, he turned pro, initially wrestling under the name Wildo von Sieber.

One night, Walter was working at the local nightclub, the Redwood Hill. One A. poster, pretty brunettes named Anne Elizabeth "Betty" Jones went to the match with her father, who she looked to the bar. From inside the ring, Walter spotted Betty in the third row. Later, he asked if she had a role home. Betty said no, so he drove her. By then he was successful and attractive, with bleach-blond hair and powerful legs. Wildo, as the



collected here, drove a limousine that he belonged to Lady First Baron. Their driveway that started a long relationship. In 1958, as Wildo seemed to be making money, they married. And soon had three daughters: Anne Elizabeth, Mary Jane and Barbara Jo.

As the family grew, so did Walter's success. As the first and last of his, his marriage made him the ideal villain, a role he relished. He worked under personas such as the Great Zuma, El Tigre, the Great Hercules and Mr. M, and held more than a dozen titles, including heavyweight champion. As Wildo von Erich he won tag team championships with the renowned von Erich brothers, a wrestling dynasty popular in the '60s and '70s.

But it was his German Man persona that propelled Wildo von Erich into superstardom. With his moustache, belt, and wild hair, Wildo introduced rage-wrestling fans still reeling from the Second World War. They'd curse, throw beer bottles and shoot red dirt

at Wildo, who'd fire the stadium in a car trunk. "The madder the fans got, the more satisfied he was," says Betty. The law firm his daughters were allowed to attend a match, they sat in a separate room for fear they'd be kidnapped or hurt.

This man wrestler was the opposite of who Wildo was to his family. Loving, kind and fun, he'd take his daughters fishing and coach them on how to protect the machine. He enjoyed making pies and soups and visiting old cars.

To Betty, he was faithful. "Remember, I love him," she recalls. But wrestling often took him away from their home in Clatsop, Ore.—one for six months. The neighbors thought Betty had a "German lover" because Wildo loved to argue. Their independence ways led to a divorce in 1978, but they remained good friends and neither remarried.

After Wildo retired in 1979, he focused on his avocations. His inheritance, financed by private sales, allowed him to hang upside down almost every day after years of performing his signature move, the Battering, which was a knee-drag off the top rope. His daughters remember his daughter from inside the basement. He worked with Don Ranney, an orthopedic surgeon in Whitefish, Ore., treating patients. Lastly they were looking for a wrestling machine called The Post. "He was a perfectionist," says Betty, and he was a caregiver. "The way was

posed to be the bull guy, but in fact he was a parent."

After he retired, Wildo trained young pros, many who say they owe him their career. It was perhaps his way of staying connected to that world. About six years ago, Wildo and his old wrestling partner, Billy Gray, known as Billy Red Lyons, visited Betty. They were using cars, and she had a wife. "We had great laughs," she says. "I said I could never turn because I had wheels."

Recently, Wildo was having a genetic assessment at Fireport Health Center in Redwood, Ore. There, he ran into Billy, who had cancer. They spent time reconnecting before Billy died on June 22. One day soon after, Wildo took "a nasty fall" at Fireport, says Mary Jane. He never recovered. Walter Paul Sieber, 75, died from complications on July 5. Mary Jane remembers who he'd tell his daughters when they'd ask if wrestling was fake. It didn't matter, Wildo would say. "It's him who you fall."

BY CATY GILLY

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